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THE Lamentable Cry OF OPPRESSION

OR,

The Case of the Poor, Suffering & Persecuted People called *Quakers* in and about FAKENHAM in NORFOLK.

Shewing the Cruelty, Injustice and Inhumanity of several Magistrates, Officers and Informers in those Parts against the said People for these many years, in the great Spoil and Havock of their Goods and Estates.

Presented to all Moderate Men in Authority, & their Neighbours and Country Men, in this impartial Relation; to the end that all may be warned from having a Hand in such Unmerciful and Unchristian Dealings.

A Well-wisher to all your Souls, and one that through the Lord's Mercy hath been accounted worthy not only to believe, but also to suffer for the Truth's sake, known to the World by the Name of

Joseph Harrison.

Ye shall be hated of all men for my Name's sake; but he that endures to the End, the same shall be saved, Mark 13. 13.

Whosoever hateth his Brother, is a Murderer; and ye know, no Murderer hath Eternal Life abiding in him, 1 John 3. 15.

What mean ye that ye beat my People to pieces, and grind the Faces of the Poor, saith the Lord God of Hosts? Isaiah 3. 15.

Printed in the Year 1679.

THE
Lamentable Cry
OF
OPPRESSION
OR,
The Tale of the Poor, Suffering & Per-
secuted People called Quakers in and about
NORWICH in NORFOLK.

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TO THE READER

Serious Reader;

I Do desire thee impartially to peruse these ensuing Particulars, and then let the Witness of God in thy Conscience judge, whether these Proceedings are agreeable to Righteousness, Law and true Justice. Should we have set out all the Matter and Manner of Proceedings in the full Extent of it, it would have swelled into too big a Volume, and haply have multiply'd the Sorrow of many tender and true-hearted *Protestants*, to hear of such Actions acted by professed *Protestants* one against another; and it may make the *Heathen* to question the *Christian Religion*, when they hear of those Rending, Tearing and Devouring Dealings amongst the Professors thereof. Certainly the *Papists* may Laugh at the great Victory they have gotten by their under-hand accomplishing such a Law, as sets one *Protestant* against another, in such a Day as this; and that for no other Reason, but for their Sincerity to God-ward; not for any Vice, but for Virtue; when they themselves see it Policy to maintain Unity, though differing in some Circumstances, a thing practised in all Ages: But if thou cast thy Eyes, thou wilt see the great Promoters and Encouragers of this Stratagem, are such as would be

accounted the wiser sort in the Age; and that upon the same Foundation the *Jews* would have Christ put to Death, *We have a Law, and by our Law he ought to dye*, John 19. 7.

The Principal End of our writing is:

First, Thereby to Warn all Magistrates in and about *Fakenham*, to take heed for the future; our Cause is committed to the Lord, who hath pleaded it, and in this day rewarded our Service of Love, and given us that Treasure in our Earthen Vessels, which is of more Value than all our outward Substance lost, if summ'd up all together; from the Sense of which we can truly say the Scripture is fulfilled, *A Little that the Righteous hath, is of more value than great Riches*; and though you have taken our Goods, yet our Peace continues; and as our Sufferings abound, even so our Consolation hath much more abounded; so that now in the Lord have we cause to rejoyce, and be glad for-ever and forever.

2dly, We hope this will warn all Officers, one and other, to take heed how they any more *break up Doors, break into Houses*, though under Pretence of Advice & Order, and then take away three or four times the value of the sum charg'd, making Friends to themselves by selling our Goods at one half of their worth, pleading Authority, but indeed prompt thereunto by a wicked and revengeful spirit. *That God that sitteth in Heaven beholds such Unrighteous Actions, and when the whirlewind of his Displeasure arises, may scatter what the Ungodly have gather'd of the Spoil of the Innocent; for he is a Just God, and when he takes Vengeance of his Peoples Enemies, none shall withstand his Power*; and therefore to him we have committed our Cause.

3dly, To Encourage you our *Relations & Neighbours*, who when our Adversaries have gather'd themselves in Companies to destroy, *have surrounded us with Tears in your Eyes, and Pity towards us*: Well, we hope you will now see the difference, between such as only profess the *Christian Religion* and *Gospel-Righteousness* out of the Life thereof, and those that live a *Gospel-Life*, a *Life of Righteousness, and in that pure Religion which is unspotted from the World*: The Actions of Men demonstrate by what spirit they are led: If you see a *Lyon* greedy & devouring, will you call such a Creature a *Lamb*: no surely: *Adam* considering the Nature of every thing, gave it a fit Name: and certainly the Proceedings of our Enemies in the meanest Capacity, must be adjudged according to its Nature.

4thly, Consider who have been the *Agents* to carry on this *inhuman Design*; call them over by Name that have been the *Informers*, & see if you can pattern them for *ill living* in a whole County: if it had been a good imployment, surely some good and sober Men would have been imployed in it, and accounted it a good Service. Dare any of you Justices, that have persecuted us, say, *That* William Watt *and his Wife, and several others, have not sworn Falsly many times?* and yet no Check put to them, no, but you must have all affirmed for truth that they say, and that for no other Reason, but because they *Swear for the King*. Oh hard measure! Hath not the Lord pointed at this *W. Watt* with great & sighal Remarks of his Judgments, that you the Justices and other the Officers might be warn'd thereby? But have you not been hardned, not considering the hand of the Lord, and still encouraged this wicked *Informer* to proceed, & have taken his Testimony when

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he stood a good distance from the House where the suspition of a Meeting was, and when he saw three or four come out of *Joseph Harrison*'s Gate, concluding it to be upon such an account, and no other; what proof of *Religious Exercise* was here? what ground to believe that *will*, *Man* heard either *preaching* or *praying*? could any such thing be made appear at such a distance? and yet what was the Consequence of this insufficient information, but *Warrants*, *Distresses*, *Rending* and *Devouring*? Do the poor *Quakers* suffer because they worship God? but if our Persecutors have had the *Common-prayer* often read amongst them, surely they have heard that part of it again and again (though they have little regarded it) that saith, *From Envy, Hatred and Malice good Lord deliver us*; but what Effects have been brought forth by them, is apparent to our impartial *Neighbours*. Oh! do not the Heavens blush, and is not the Earth asham'd? what can you say for your selves, some of you? When four poor *Quakers* (so called) were travailing in the Way together, nothing looking like a *Conventicle* or *Meeting*; and because that Number was insufficient to convict by, did not the Informers assyle a fifth Person on the Road, and a *Stranger to the other four*: what of *Religious Exercise* was here? and where was the number of *Five* here? what did you do to enquire the Truth of this out, and to correct the *Malice*, *Envy* and *Hatred* of the *Informers*? but was not this convicted by some of you, as a *Conventicle*, and *Warrants* for the same been granted, and *Distresses* taken? did you send for the Accused, to hear them, and take part with them as much as the *Law* would have permitted? Shall *Justice Ballance* in her Hand, and will you not put one grain of *Equity into the Scale of the pretended Offender*? We

have

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have cause to fear, you have taken your Measures to force Conformity upon us from some others besides the *English Church* (so called.)

Have not some of our *Neighbours* had their *Cattel taken from them, under Pretence they were some of ours*, when indeed they were not, only the *Informer* said *they were?* and what Relief could the Owner have at your hands for this Injury? none at all, until they were forced to *right themselves before a Judge of Assize and Jury?* and then Justice was done them: And may I ask one Question? *Pray, who bare the Charge of that Defence of* Poor *W. Watt* was altogether unable (& if you deny it) the People will still surmise from whence he must have had support. Indeed that *Informer* hath been like one of *Pharaoh's Lean Kine, that swallow'd the Fat, and yet was very ill favour'd*, for what was he the better for all he has been help'd to? nay, but has he not been much the worse? what a *Curse* hath gone along with it! and hath it not been seen by our Enemies? surely then they have wilfully shut their Eyes.

Have not smooth & fair words been spoken to some of us, although suddenly followed by Harsh and Cruel Actions? Oh *C. C!* were not these thy words? *We know you will not Swear, but give me a true Account, What was the Reason your Son & you were absent from the Church, and I will believe you*: was not Answer then truly made, *Her Son* (that was one of the Persons accused for not being at his *Parish Church* (so called) *was Sick all the time for which he was presented, and she her self was to look to him most part of the time*: And was not this a true Answer? but what was the result of this? didst thou not that Night grant out Warrants to distrain? and was it not done to the greatest Extremity? And when

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Diſtreſſes have been taken, which of you have made inquiry, whether Officers have not done more than they ought to have done, that ſo you might put a ſtop to part of the Cruelty? or, is there no *Mercy* to be extended to Perſons that differ in Manner of Worſhip from you? have you not read what that great Monarch of *England* ſaid to his Son? *The Extremity of the Law is Tyranny*: but have you abated us one tittle of it? *Felons* and *Murderers* have had the Liberty to bring in *witneſſes* to clear themſelves when accuſed; but we are fallen into the hands of ſuch, as we muſt neither hear our Accuſation, nor know our Accuſers: However, we can ſay from the bottom of our Hearts, our Deſires are to the Lord, *That he would ſhew you Mercy, before your Sun be ſet, and your Day be over, and Mercy be excluded from you.*

And ſo tender-hearted *Reader*, I refer thee to the following particular Relation; and if thou haſt any Scruple of the Truth thereof, our Neighbours can fully ſatisfie thee of it, if thou enquire of ſuch who are without Prejudice to us, who can ſatisfie thee, our Sufferings have been much more than thou will find made publick herein. And now I commend thee to the Grace of God, and to the Appearance thereof in thine own Heart, that therein both thou and I may come to find Acceptance with him, and be approved in his Sight.

J. H.

THE Lamentable Cry OF OPPRESSION, &c.

A Brief Account of the Sufferings of the People of God called *Quakers* at *Fakenham*, upon the account of not going to the Steeple-House, to their Worship; where for several Three First Dayes Absence therefrom, they had Goods taken from them, and were sent to Prison, as follow.

First follows the Proceedings of Robert Sheldrake *and* Robert Pepper *against the said People, in and about the Year* 1668.

IN the fourth moneth, (1668.) there was taken from *William Monk*, a Chair-Table, and four Joynt-Stools, to the value of 6 s.

And taken from *Anne Harrison* of the same Town a pair of Dog-irons, a Hake, a Chafing-dish, and a pair of Tongs, to the

the value of 6 s. Her Husband being then a Prisoner in *Norwich* Castle.

Taken from *Margaret Peckover* of the same Town, three yards and a quarter of Scotch-cloth, to the value of 5 s.

Taken from *Joan Watson* the Curtains from off her Bed, to the value of 3 s. her Husband being in Prison at the same time.

Taken from *Fran. Lenders* for his Wife, a Flagon, to the value of 1 s. 6 d.

In the 5th month following taken more upon the same account.

From *William Monk*, a Covering off his Bed, to the value of 6 s.

Taken from *Margaret Peckover* Goods to the value of 6 s. 6 d.

Taken from *Anne Harrison*, a Form and a Smoothing-Iron, to the value of 5 s.

In the 6th month, taken more from *William Monk*, two Holland Bayles, a pair of And-irons and a Pewter Pot, to the value of 8 s.

Taken from *Margaret Peckover*, a piece of fine Vermillion, to the value of 7 s.

In the same month they took more from her, a quantity of Vermillion, to the value of 9 s. 3 d.

In the 7th moneth, taken more from *Margaret Peckover*, Cambo Lawn, to the value of 6 s.

Taken more from the said *William Monk*, being an Aged Man, six Pewter Dishes, to the value of 10 s.

In the 8th moneth, the said *William Monk* and his Wife, she being also an Aged Woman, had their *Mittimus* made to send them to Prison, by *Henry Clifton* a Justice (so called) but falling both sick, *Margaret Peckover* their Daughter took them home to her House before they went to Prison; but no sooner were they made able to stir abroad, but the said *Clifton* sent to the Constable, threatning to send him to Prison if he did not speedily carry the two Aged Persons away to Prison, which accordingly

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cordingly the Officers did; and they both Dyed Priſoners in a little above a quarter of a year, finiſhing their Teſtimony for the Everlaſting Truth.

[Note, *The ſaid* Hen. Clifton, *that committed them to Priſon, lived not long after, but Dyed a Sad and Lamentable Death, as is very well known.*]

Further, *Margaret Peckover* aforeſaid had taken from her upon the ſame account, a quantity of Scotch-cloth, to the value of 6s. 6d. her Husband being then in Priſon.

Anne Harriſon had taken from her, a Pewter Diſh and a Kettle, to the value of 4s.

Thomas Watſon having been a Priſoner a long time, coming home to ſee his Wife and ſmall Children, they took away his Coat for his Wife's abſenting from their Worſhip.

Sarah Pond had taken from her a Chair-Table upon the account aforeſaid.

Alice Williamſon had taken from her the Covering of her Bed, to the value of 4s.

[Note, William Hemſteely *and others they carryed to Priſon becauſe they could not take a Diſtreſs of them.*]

In the ſame year (68.) *Henry Gibbs*, *William Waſy* and *Richard Fideman* being at *Joſeph Harriſon*'s Houſe, there came *Richard Peſſup* and *Robert Shildrake* Churchwardens (ſo called) and *Tho. Whitby* Conſtable, and pulled them out of his Houſe, and carryed them in a Cart before *Chriſtopher Calthorp* (called a Juſtice) who dwelt near the Town of *Fakenham*, who required them to find Sureties for their good Behaviour, they refuſing (not being guilty of the Breach thereof) he committed them to Priſon.

In the year (69.) *Hen. Gibbs*, *William Waſey*, *John Wade*, *Robert Pearſtree*, *Hugh Sheltram*, *Robert Southgate*, *Richard Rouſe* and *Nicholas Witcomb*, being met together with others at the Houſe of *Joſeph Harriſon* in *Fakenham*, they were ſtayed by the Conſtables until the aforeſaid *Chriſtopher Calthorp* came to them (with ſeveral diſorderly people following of him) and he committed the aboveſaid Perſons to Priſon.

A further Accompt of ſome of the Sufferings of the People of God called *Quakers* in and about *Fakenham* in *Norfolk*, with the Names of ſome of thoſe Juſtices, Informers, Conſtables and other Officers concerned therein, being chiefly for meeting together to wait upon and worſhip the living God, and becauſe of their Diſſent from the Publick Worſhip, or Church (ſo called.)

Joſeph Harriſon of *Fakenham* was fined 5 l. for a Meeting at his Houſe, about the 29th of the 3d moneth, 1670. and had taken from him about the 2d of the 5th moneth following, by the Officers of the ſaid Town, *William Watt* being Informer, two Feather Beds, two Feather Boulſters, one Flight Boulſter, a Rugg, Curtains, Vallans, Curtain-Rods, two Bed Blankets and a pair of Sheets, four Darnick Stools, two Darnick Chairs, three great Green Chairs and a Bed-cord, all worth 7 l.

Robert Southgate of *Twyford* was fined 5 l. for the ſame Meeting at *Joſeph Harriſon*'s, the 29th of the 3d moneth, 1670. and had theſe Goods taken from him, *viz.* One Side of Beef, one Bullock's Hide, a Side of Mutton, and ſeveral other Joynts of Mutton, certain Swine, two Cupboards, and other Goods, valued at 5 l. 15 s.

John Wade was fined 20 l. for a Meeting at his Houſe in *Twyford* the 5th of the 4th moneth, 1670. and had taken from him by Warrant from Doctor *Herbert Aſhly* (called a Juſtice) as followeth:

Two Horſes, a Cart, a Plough, and other Husbandry Goods, a Bedſtead, ſeveral Chairs, and other valuable Houſhold Goods, to the value of 24 l. 13 s.

Joſeph

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Joſeph Harriſon was fined 5 s. for being at the ſame Meeting, and had taken from him a Braſs Pot and a Warming-pan, worth 10 s. 15

Robert Southgate was fined 5 s. for being at the ſame Meeting, and ſoon after had taken from him (by *Edward Winter* and *John Bant*, by Warrant from the aforeſaid *Herbert Aſhly*) one Bullock's Hide, a Neat's Tongue and a Cheek, worth 8 s.

Robert Southgate was fined more by the ſaid Juſtice, 9 l. 13 s. 4 d. for the Houſe.

He was fined 10 s. more (for the ſecond Offence, ſo called) for being at a Meeting at *John Wade*'s aforeſaid, upon the 26th of the 4th moneth, 1670. by the ſaid Juſtice.

He was alſo fined for the ſaid Meeting 9 l. 10 s. more for the Houſe by the ſaid Juſtice (ſo called) and about the 28th of the ſame moneth *Edward Winter* and *John Browne*, Conſtables of *Bintree* and *Twyford*, came into the ſaid *Robert*'s Houſe to ſtrain for the laſt three Fines, being all expreſſed in one Warrant, and they took from him four Cows, one Calf, one Cart, one Bed as it ſtood, one Feather Bed more, one Rugg, with all the Furniture belonging to the Bed, except the Bedſtead, four Braſs Kettles, one Braſs Morter, ſeveral great Pewter Diſhes, one Framed Table, one Chair Table, with ſeveral other Houſhold Goods, worth 30 l.

Joſeph Harriſon was fined 15 s. for himſelf and his Wife, for being at the ſame Meeting, by Warrant from the ſaid Dr. *Aſhly*, and had taken from him a Horſe, with Bridle and Saddle, Pillion and Pillion-cloth and Foot-ſtool, as they came riding, worth 4 l. 10 s.

He was fined 3 l. 1 s. 4 d. ob. more, for a part of *John Wade*'s Fine for the Houſe, for the ſaid Meeting, and had taken from him one Horſe, three Pewter Diſhes, two Porrigers, a Tankard, a Candleſtick, a Braſs Pot, a Braſs Kettle, a Skimmer, a Caſting Ladle and a Form, all worth 4 l.

Edmund Peckover of *Fakenham* was fined 5 s. for his Wife's being at the aforeſaid Meeting, and had taken from him in Money 5 s.

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There being a Meeting at the House of *Joseph Harrison* in *Fakenham*, the 2d of the 5th moneth, 1670. and *Samuel Carr* being there, and declaring the Truth to the people present, *William Wate* his Wife came, and after some time went to inform the Officers thereof, who came and had Friends before *Christopher Cadthorp* (a Justice) who asked her, tendring her the Oath, *To speak the Truth, and nothing but the Truth of what she saw and heard*; asking her, *If she was in the Room where the Meeting was?* She said, *No, but was at the Door.* He asked, *Why she went not in?* She said, *The Room was so full she could not get in.* The said Justice ask't her, *What* Samuel *said in the Meeting?* and she told him Words that *Samuel* did not speak; *Samuel* appealed to the Officers that heard him, who said, *The Woman Lyed, and they were not his Words*: then *Samuel* appealed to the Justice to do us right, there being no Cause he should convict us by her Testimony; and she, for her own Ends, to accomplish her Ungodly Desires, spake that which was not true, as it did appear to him: The Justice answered, *He did not believe all was true she said; but he did believe that he Preached at* Joseph Harrison's *House, and for that he would fine* Samuel *Twenty Pounds*: which accordingly he did, and sent the Records of Conviction to the Magistrates at *Elye*, who sent out their Warrants, and took away his Goods.

Joseph Harrison was fined 5 l. for the said Meeting being at his House, and had taken from him by Warrant from the said *Christopher Cathorp* & one —— *Brightia* Justices (so called) two Bedsteads, a Tester, five Chairs, two Chests, one Pewter Case, two Tables, one Bed-cord, one Glass-Case, one Cow, four little Hoggs and one Sow; all worth 6 l. 10 s.

Mary Johnson was fined 5 l. for part of *Joseph Harrison*'s fine for the said Meeting being at his House, and had Goods taken away from her to the value of 7 l.

Edmund Peckover aforesaid was fined 15 s. for his Wife's being at two Meetings at *Joseph Harrison*'s and one at *Thurning*, and had taken away in Money 15 s.

Joseph Harrison was fined 20 s. for himself and his Wife be-

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ing at a Meeting at *Thurning* the 30 day of the 5th moneth, 1670. for which the Officers of *Fakenham*, by warrant from Sr. *Jacob Ashly* (so called) took away his Horse, worth 4 l. 10 s.

Edmund Peckover was fined 10 s. for his Wife, by a Warrant from the said *Jacob Ashly* Knight and Justice (so called) upon the Information of two Informers *Richmond* and *Lynes*, who informed the said Justice of a Meeting that was (they said) in the Road-way to *Thurning*, where there were but Four Friends talking together, and these two Informers coming past them, espyed a Stranger at some distance (not one of our Friends) and said, *Now they would Swear it a Meeting*, and did so; and upon the 1st of the 10th moneth, 1670. *Rich. Collins* Warden, *Roger Hemy* Constable and *John Wortely* came to the said *Edmund* his Shop, and for the said Fine took out of his Money-Box 10 s.

Joseph Harrison being fined for the same pretended Meeting, the Officers the same day went to his Stall in *Fakenham* Market, and took from him forty two pound of Beef, worth 7 s.

Joseph Harrison being fined for a Meeting at *Twyford*, had taken from him upon the 5th of the 11th moneth, 1670. a fat Sheep, worth 10 s.

Joseph Harrison being fined 5 l. for a Meeting at his House upon the 15th of the 9th moneth, 1670. by a Warrant from *Nathaniel Shouldham* and *Christopher Calthorp* (called Justices) and had taken from him by the Officers of *Fakenham*, who came to his House the 2d of the 1st moneth following, and took from him half a Bullock, worth 2 l. 10 s. The 9th of the same moneth they came again, and took for the said Fine the value of three Quarters of Beef and four Quarters of Mutton, worth 2 l. 5 s. Again, they took as much Tallow as came to 17 s.

Edmund Peckover was fined 10 s. for being at the said Meeting at *Joseph Harrison's*, the 15th of the 9th moneth, and had taken from him upon the 18th of the 11th moneth following, seven yards and three quarters of Linnen Cloth to the value of 14 s.

The 17th of the 6th moneth, 1671. the Informer *William Watt*,

Watt, with the Officers *Henry Gogney* and *John Cook* Wardens, and *Roger Henry* a Conſtable, went towards another Town where *Joſeph Harriſon* uſed a Paſture-Cloaſe, the Informer went in (as it was ſaid) and took out two fat Bullocks, which were worth 6l. 10s. And for this they ſaid, they had a Warrant from the aforeſaid *Nathaniel Shouldham* and *Chriſtopher Colthorp*, for a Fine of 10l. for a Meeting that was at his Houſe upon the 3d of the 3d moneth, 1671. And upon the 6th of the 7th moneth next, the ſame Officers came again to *Joſeph Harriſon*'s for the remainder of the aforeſaid fine, as they ſaid, and took from him three Bullocks, which coſt him 10l. 10s. not offering him any Over-plus thereof.

17 *Edmund Peckover* was fined 10s. for his Wife being at the ſame Meeting at *Joſeph Harriſon*'s, and upon the 18th of the 6th moneth, 1671. *Henry Gogney* Warden and *Roger Henry* Conſtable, came to *Edmund*'s Shop with a Warrant to levy the ſaid Fine, and took from him a piece of Green Say of twenty yards and a half, worth 1l. 15s.

The 10th of the 5th moneth, 1674. at a Meeting at the Houſe of *Joſeph Harriſon* in *Fakenham*, there came *William Watt* the Informer, with the Officers of *Fakenham*, *Nich. Hil*, *Chriſt. Overton*, *Rob. Cooper* and *Covenant Hemſtetly*, who ſtood till the Meeting was done, and then demanded Friends Names, who demanded to ſee their Warrant, but they ſhewed none; they took ſome Friends Names, and went away.

The 19th of the ſame moneth came the ſaid *William Watt* and ſome of the aforeſaid Officers, viz. *Hill*, *Overton* and *Cooper*, and took the Names of ſeveral Friends, and the reſt they took and impriſoned till the next day, being between forty and fifty in number, and had them before him called Sr. *Chriſtopher Colthorp*, who took their Names and diſmiſſed and fined them, as after followeth.

The twenty ſixth of the ſame moneth, Friends being peaceably met to wait upon the Lord at *Joſeph Harriſon*'s Houſe, the Officers came into the Meeting, and when the

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the Meeting was done, took Friends Names and went a-

For these three Meetings was made great Havock and Spoil of several Friends Goods, as followeth:

The 28th of the 6th moneth, 1674. the Officers of *Fakenham*, viz. *Nich. Hill* Constable, *Christ. Overton* Overseer, and *John Read* an Informer, went early in the morning (as it was said) to a piece of Land of the Widow *Hamsteely's*, by a Warrant from Sr. *Christopher Calthorp* (so called) and took thirty five Sheep, to the value of above 10 l. for Fines, which were imposed on her Son *William Hamsteely*, for a Meeting at *Joseph Harrison's* the 19th of the 5th moneth (74.) viz. 5 l. 5 s. for *Joseph Harrison*, 5 s. for himself, 5 s. for the Widow *Mayes*, 5 s. for her Daughter, and 5 s. for the Wife of *John Roe*; in all 6 l. 5 s.

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[Note, William's *Mother, whose the Sheep were, was not one called a* Quaker, *nor was at the Meeting.*]

The same day the Officers, viz. *Hill*, *Overton*, *Cooper* and *Humphry Moore*, went to *Edmund Peckover's* Shop in *Fakenham* with a Warrant to levy 10 l. *viz.* 5 s. for himself, 5 s. for his Wife, and 9 l. 10 s. for *Joseph Harrison* part of the fine for his House, and took these Goods following; Five yards of milled Serge, thirty yards of *French* Druggits, and fifty two yards of the best Prunella. The next day they came again, and took thirty four yards and three quarters of Druggists, twenty yards and three quarters of Sattin, sixteen yards of black Prunella, twenty four yards of Ozenbridge. The 31th day of the aforesaid month they came again, and took eight yards of Stuff, and ten yards and half an ell of Serge; in all worth 18 l.

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The aforesaid 28th day they went to a poor man's House, one *William Read*, and for a fine of 5 s. for his Wife's being at the said Meeting, they took his Coal-grate, his Kettle (having no other to boyl their Victuals in) and two Pewter Dishes, all worth 20 s.

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The 30th day of the said moneth the same Officers, *Hill* and *Overton*, went to the House of *Francis Larder*, where there

 was

was no Body but a Child of about six or seven years of Age, himself not being one called a *Quaker*, and for a fine of 5*s.* for his Wife's being at one of the aforesaid Meetings, they took a Rugg, a Blanket and a Feather Boulster; all worth 15*s.*

0-15-0 The same 28th day of the 6th moneth, the said Officers of *Fakenham* went to the House of *Thomas Watson*, a very poor man, having a Wife and Five small Children, and nothing but his Labour to maintain them, he having suffered long and tedious Imprisonment upon the account of Truth; they said they had a Warrant to strain for 10*s.* *viz.* 5*s.* for himself, and 5*s.* for his Wife, for being at one of the aforesaid Meetings; they looked about, and went away, and told the Magistrate (as it is said) *That there was little in his House to take, but the Feather they lay upon*; he bid them, *Take his Bed*: so the next day they took their Feather Bed and a Blanket worth 12*s.* and left them none to lie on, so they lay upon Straw. And the 2d of the

0-4-0 7th moneth they came again, saying, *They had not enough*; so they took their Coal-Grate and their Kettle, in which they boiled their Food, worth 4*s.*

The 31th of the said 6th moneth, the Officers went and brought away from *Joseph Harrison* a fat Bullock and five Sheep, and shut them up in a House at *Nicholas Hill's*; when *Joseph* heard of it, he went and demanded of them, *Wherefore they did it?* who told him, *They had a Warrant from Sr.* Christ. Calthorp *for a fine of* 5*l.* 5*s.* *for a Meeting being at his House upon the* 19*th day of* July (74.) the Bullock and five Sheep worth 5*l.* The

5-0-0 3d day of the 7th moneth they came again, and said, *They must*

1-12-0 *have* 23*s.* *of the fine*; and took fourteen stone and twelve pound of Beef off his Stall in the Market, worth 1*l.* 12*s.* fourteen pound to the stone.

The 9th day of the 7th moneth (74.) the Officers of *Herningtoft*, viz. *Robert Reeve* and *William Franklin* Over-seers, and *Tho. Reeve* Warden, went to *Francis Hill's* (he being then in Prison upon an Assize Proces) and told his Wife, *They had a Warrant from Sr.* Christ. Calthorp, *to strain for* 10*s.* *viz.* 5*s.* *for her Husband, and* 5*s.* *for her self, for being at a Meeting at*

Joseph

Joseph Harrison's of Bakenham upon the 19th of July (74.) they asked her, *If she would Consent they should take* 10 s. *of the* 20 s. *that was left as an Overplus of her Cows?* for they had taken two Cows from them in the 3d moneth fore-going for his and his Wife's absenting from the Steeple-house twenty six Weeks before, though they never demanded it in all that time, so they counted it came to 52 s. and sold the Cows, and would have returned 20 s. or someting more, but he would not receive it; she told them, *She had done no Wrong, neither would she consent to their doings*; so they took a Mare from her, worth above 2 l. 2-00

The 14th of the 7th moneth (74) some Officers of *Burnyham* went to *Peter Wynns* with a Warrant from *Christopher Calthorp*, to levy a Fine of 5 s. for being at one of the aforesaid Meetings at *Joseph Harrison's*, he being a very poor man, his Wife lately dead, and he left with Nine Children, Seven of them small, and in a very poor Condition; they took from him a pair of Dog-irons, a Cicle, a Spit, and the Kettle he had to boyl their Victuals in, the value of them about 8 s. 8

The same day the Officers of *Burningham* aforesaid went to *Robert Barwick's* of the same Town to levy for a fine of 5 s. for being at the said Meeting at *Joseph Harrison's*, and took from him a Kettle and a Pot, valued above 12 s. 12-

The same moneth the Officers of *Twyford*, viz. *Tho. Everet* Over-seer and *George Pres* Warden, came to *Robert Southgate* with a Warrant from *Christopher Calthorp*, to levy a Fine of 10 s. for himself and Wife being at a Meeting at *Joseph Harrison's* the 19th of the 5th moneth (74.) for which they took a Hide worth 10 s. and as much Beef as was worth 2 s. in all 12 s. 12

The 16th day of the 7th moneth (74.) the Officers of *Foxham*, viz. *Nich. Hill*, *Chr. Overton* and *Robert Cooper*, went to *Joseph Harrison's* with two Warrants from *Chr. Cram* (a Justice, so called) to levy for two Meetings at his House, one upon the tenth of the fifth moneth (1674.) and the other upon the twenty sixth of the same moneth, five pounds for the one, and four pounds fifteen shillings for the other; they went 9-0-0

12.12 0

into his Orchard, and took three fat Bullocks, worth Nine Pounds.

About the same time the Officers of *Fakenham* took away from the Widow *Hemsterly* four Cows and two Bullocks, they said, for fines imposed on her Son *William*, viz. 5 l. 10 s. for the House, 20 s. for *Tho. Watson* and his Wife, and 10 s. for himself being at one of the aforesaid Meetings.

The 23d of the same moneth, *Hill* and *Overton* went to *Joseph Harrison*'s House again, and took away another fat Bullock for the fines aforesaid, worth 3 l. 5 s.

About the same time the said *Hill* and *Overton* with *Robert Cooper* and *Humphry Moore* went to *Edmund Peckover*'s Shop with two Warrants, as they said, to strain for the King; but *Hill* refused to produce his Warrant for a time, though required by *Edmund*'s Wife; but by *Robert Cooper*'s perswasion they were read; and they were for 16 l. 5 s. for the said two Meetings, viz. 2 l. for himself and his Wife, and 19 s. for their Son *Joseph*, for two Meetings, 5 s. for their Daughter *Rebekah*, and 5 s. for their Maid *Martha Philly*, for one Meeting, and 33 l. for *Joseph Harrison*, viz. 31. for one Meeting, and 1 l. for another, being parts of the 201. fines for the House, for which they took as follows, Seven yards one quarter of Searge, twenty two yards more of Searge, sixteen yards one half more of Searge, seven yards three quarters of Searge, eight yards of Searge, ten yards of Searge, eight yards one half of Silk Parrendine, ten yards one half of Stuff, four yards of Stuff, three yards three quarters more of Searge, seventeen yards one half of Searge and five yards of Say, worth above 17 l.

Soon after the aforesaid Officers, *Hill* and *Overton*, came again to *Edmund Peckover*'s House, and *Hill* took down six large Pewter Plates, cost 2 s. 6 d. apiece, and nine Pewter Dishes, and a Porringer, and gave them to *Overton* to carry away, and denyed to let them be weighed, but Reviled *Edmund*'s Wife very much for requiring it, and because their Son *Joseph Peckover* would have had them weighed, *Hill* took him and buffeted him, and dragg'd him to the Stocks, and put him in for a time;

and

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and they took more Goods, as much Stuff as came to Ten Pounds. 10-0

The next Night, *Hill*, *Overton* and *Moore* came again to *Edmund Peckover*'s Shop, and said, *They wanted* 30 s. *still*; so took fifty two yards of *Ozenbridge* and a piece of Stuff, both worth 2 l. 10 s. so that for the fine of 16 l. 15 s. they took Goods to the value of above 30 l. 2-10-0 / 3 0-0

The 19th of the 6th moneth, 1674. the Officers of *Horningtast* came to *Francis Hill*'s Wife, with two Warrants from Justice *Crow* (so called) to strain for her Husband and her self being at the two Meetings at *Joseph Harrison*'s aforesaid, one the 10th, and the other upon the 26th day of the 5th moneth aforesaid, 40 s. for her Husband and her self, 5 s. for *Theodora Todd*, and 5 l. for *Joseph Harrison* (for the House) and they took away five Milch Cows, worth about 12 l. 12-0-0

[Note *That* Francis *his Wife, was but at one of the Meetings*, *yet* Nicholas Hill *and* Chr. Overton *swore she was at both.*] 1-5-0

The 25th of the 7th moneth, 1674. the Officers of *Coltreak* went to the House of *William Woods* to strain for 15 s. for his Wife's being at two Meetings at *Joseph Harrison*'s, and they took a Feather Bed and a Feather Pillow, a Bed-blanket, a pair of Sheets, a Brass Pot and a Kettle, worth above 1 l. 5 s. 2-0

[Note, *The man was not one called a* Quaker.]

The 30th of the 8th moneth, (74.) the Officers of *Swanton* over went to *Robert Southgate*'s to levy 3 l. 10 s. *viz.* for himself 10 s. for young *Anne Harrison* and the Widow *May* 15 s. for *Anne Bee* 10 s. and for *Joseph Harrison* 1 l. 15 s. and the said Officers, viz. *James Naylor* and *Tobias Hasting* Constables, *Richard Morrice* Over-seer, *Robert Goddard* the younger and *Isaac Wale* Wardens, *Naylor* and *Goddard* with a great Trove Hammer, brake up a Door that was locked, and took away a fat Swine, worth 1 l. Soon after they came again to make up their fine, and brake up a Chamber Door, which they did with that Violence, that they brake his Iron Butchering-Ax and some 21 / 1-17-0

other 18-02

other things with doing it, and then took away two Feather Pillows, with a Pillow Case, a new Blanket and a Bullock's Hide, all worth 37 s.

[Note, *There was a Bed and Bolster, and other things, taken away from* Robert *at the same time, which a Neighbour of his would buy of the Officers, and return again to* Robert.]

The 30th of the 8th moneth, the Officers of *Fakenham* went to *Anne Bee* for 10 s. for being at the said two Meetings at *Joseph Harrison's* (she was fined 20 s. but they got 10 s. of it of *Robert Southgate* aforesaid) and they took from her a Cupboard-Table, a Kettle, and a Feather Pillow. And upon the 5th of the 2d moneth (75.) they went to her again to make up the fine, and took an Iron Pot with the Hooks, and her Hat, in all worth 14 s.

0-14-0 The 20th day of the 7th moneth (74.) Friends being peaceably met to wait upon God at the House of *Joseph Harrison* in *Fakenham*, *William Wats* and *Nich. Hill* Informers, *Humphry Moore* a Constable, and *Chr. Overton* Overseer, came in and staid some time, and took the Names of several Friends; and the said Informers went to one *Robert Wilpoole* a Justice (so called) and swore they heard *Joseph Harrison* say, *They were not to Worship God, and they could do in other wise*; the Magistrate told *Joseph* the Informers said so, though there was not one word spoke to them; whereupon he gave them a Warrant, wherein he fined *Joseph Harrison* 10 l. and *Edmund Peckover* 10 l. viz. 20 s. for him and his Wife, 10 s. for their Son *Joseph*, 10 s. for their Daughter *Rebeckah*, 10 s. for their Maid *Martha Phillips*, and 7 l. 10 s. for *Joseph Harrison*, and some others were fined by him for that Meeting.

So upon the 14th day of the 8th moneth (74.) the Officers of *Fakenham*, *John Bately* and *William Sudbury* Constables, and *Chr. Overton* Over-seer, went to *Joseph Harrison's* with the aforesaid Warrant to levy the said 10 l. and they took two fat Bullocks, worth 6 l.

6-0-0 The 28th of the said moneth, the said Officers took from the said

6-14-0
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35-0-0

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said *Joseph*, by the said Warrant, his Cow, he having no more to succour his Children withal, worth 2 l. 10 s. 2-10-0

The 10th of the 10th moneth (74.) they went to *Joseph Harrison*'s Stall in the Market in *Fakenham*, and told him, *They had not their Fine up yet*; so they took a Side of Beef, weighed 12. Stone and nine Pound (fourteen pound to the stone) worth 1 l. 10 s. 1-10-0

The 17th of the same moneth some of them came again to his Stall in the Market, and told him, *They wanted about* 20 s. *still of the Fine*; so they took from him ten stone seven pound of Beef (fourteen pound to the stone) worth 1 l. 4 s. 1-4-0

The 17th of the 8th moneth (74.) the Officers of *Fakenham*, viz. *Fran. Page* and *Covenant Hempsteely* Wardens, *Chr. Overton* and *Will. Sippense* Over-seers, *John Cooke*, *Will. Sudbury* and *John Bately* Constables, went to *Edmund Parkover*'s Shop, and said, *They came to levy* 10 l. *by the said Warrant from Justice* Walpoole, *for the said Meeting the* 20*th of the seventh moneth*; and they took as followeth, Forty four yards and one half of Holland, ten yards one quarter of Stript Linnen, four yards one half of full Searge, nineteen yards of red Semperternum, fifteen yards one half of Searge, six yards one quarter of Full'd Searge, four yards three quarters more of Searge; all worth 8 l. 8-0-0

Some time in the 10th moneth following, some of the said Officers went to *Edmund*'s Shop again, and found a Purse with Money, and told out 5 l. in the Absence of *Edmund* and his Wife, which they carryed away, 5 l. 5-0-0

The 15th of the 10th moneth (74.) the Officers of *Walsingham* went to *Nathaniel Urines* of the same Town with two Warrants, one from the said Justice *Walpoole* for 10 s. and one from Justice *Crow* aforesaid for 40 s. for a Meeting at *Joseph Harrison*'s in the 5th moneth foregoing; and they took from him a Mare, worth 3 l. 3-0-0

About the same time the Officers of *Swanton-overs*, viz. *Will. Girling* and *Jacob Webster* Constables, *Richard Morrice* and *Isaac Wale* Overseers, and *Robert Goddard* Warden, went to *Robert Southgate*'s with a Warrant from the said Justice *Walpoole* to strain for 7 l. viz. for himself and his Wife 20 s. for *Thomas Watson* and his Wife 20 s. for young *Anne Harrison* 10 s. 7-10-0

for

for *Anne Bee* 10 s. for *Mary May* 10 s. for *Theodora Todd* 10 s. for *Elizabeth Todd* 10 s. and for *Joseph Harrison* 50 s. and they took from him two Cows, a Mare, a Saddle and Bridle, all worth 7 l. 10 s.

Here follows a Copy of part of a Warrant, granted by Justice Bedingfield *(so called) of* Wighton *near* Walsingham, *upon the Information of* William Watt, *the old Informer, and his Son in Law* Henry Nichols.

Norfolk, WHereas upon the Information of *William Watt*, of the Parish of St. *Peters* in the City of *Norwich*, Sadler, and *Henry Nichols* of *Fakenham* in the County aforesaid, taken upon Oath before me *Christopher Bedingfield* Esq. one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for this County, That on *Sunday* the 26th of *November* last past, divers Persons, whose Names are hereunder written, to the Number of above five, all his Majesty's Subjects, and above the Age of sixteen years, were present at an Unlawful Assembly, Conventicle or Meeting, under Colour or Pretence of Religion, in other manner than according to the *Liturgy* of the *Church of England*, in the House of *Joseph Harrison* in the Parish of *Fakenham* above said, contrary to the Law in such Case made and provided, &c.

* Note, *The 26th Day of November was the Day called* Thursday.

This Warrant was dated the 8th day of *January* (so called) 1674. and therein were fined, *Joseph Harrison* for the House 20 l. *Nathaniel Orme* 20 s. for himself, and *Theodora Todd*, *Margaret*

Margaret the Wife of *Edmund Peckover* 10 s. *Mary* the Wife of *Francis Larder* 10 s. *Roſe* the Wife of *Richard Cambridge* 10 s. beſides more in the ſaid Warrant expreſſed.

[Note, *Although the Information whereupon this Warrant was grounded was Falſe as to the Day mentioned, yet no Reaſon would prevail to ſtop their Cruel Proceedings, as appears.*]

For upon the 12th day of the ſame moneth, *viz.* the 11th moneth (74.) the Officers of *Walſingham* went to *Nathaniel Urin's*, to levy his fine of 20 s. for being at the ſaid Meeting, and took as much Hoſe-yarn as came to 1 l. 8 s. 22

Not long after the Officers of *Walſingham*, viz. *Benjamin Ruſkin* Over-ſeer, *Richard Winter* and *John Hill* Conſtables, went to *Joſeph Harriſon* at his Stall in *Walſingham* Market, with a Warrant from the ſaid Juſtice *Bedingfield*, to levy for the ſaid Meeting; he asked them to read it, and therein he was fined 20 l. for a Meeting at his Houſe on *Sunday* the 26th of *November* (74.) he told them, *He had no Meeting at his Houſe on that day; they might find in an* Almanack, *that the 26th of* November *was upon the Day called* Thurſday, *and ſo the Information was falſe; and he did believe, they ought not to ſtrain his Goods by a Warrant granted upon a Wrong Information*: then ſome of the Officers went to the Magiſtrate (they ſaid) he being then in Town, and told him of the matter, but he encouraged them to *renue the Warrant* (as they ſaid) *and he would juſtifie them in it*; ſome of them were loath to do it, knowing the Information to be Falſe; but *John Hill* ſaid, *Right or Wrong I'le take it*; 1-8-0

ſo took all the Beef he had left, to the value of about 13 s. 6 d. 13-6

The Warrant was made to ſtrain his Goods at *Fakenham*, at *Walſingham* and *Scoultharp*; and *Wats* the Informer carried it from Town to Town where he had any Goods; then he brought it to *Fakenham* Officers, who knew the Information to be Falſe, ſome of them were loath to execute the Warrant, and forbare awhile; but the Informer being troubled at it, went to the ſaid Juſtice that gave it forth, who altered the date of it, from the Twenty Sixth day to the Twenty Nineth day, and ſent it with 2-1-6

a Threatning Letter to the Officers of *Fakenham*, and forced them to levy for the 29th day, although he had caused *Walsingham* Officers to levy for the 26th day.

The 18th day of the 12th moneth, 1674. the Officers of *Fakenham*, viz. *Covenant Hempsteely*, *John Cook*, *William Sudbury* and *John Basely* went to *Joseph Harrison*'s Stall in the Market, with the Warrant to distrain his Beef, and they read it, and it was altered to the 29th day aforesaid; *Joseph* said, *My Goods have been distrained at* Walsingham, *and so have* Nathaniel Urine's, *for the 26th day*; *and would you now strain for the 29th day, and all by one Warrant?* and some of them appeared troubled, and said, *It was not Right, but the Magistrate would force them to do it*; so they took five stone four pound of Beef, worth 12 s.

And *Watt* the Informer being troubled they proceeded no faster, went and complained of the Officers to the Magistrate, who sent forth a Threatning Letter to the Officers of *Fakenham*, whereupon they went to him, and found him much displeased with them, and said, *He would not be trifled withal, but would have his Warrant executed*, or to that purpose. Whereupon

On the 5th day of the 1st moneth, 1675. the Officers of *Fakenham* went to *Joseph Harrison*'s House, viz. *Fran. Page*, *Covenant Hempsteely*, *John Cooke* and others, and they took a Feather Bed and Bolster, a Pillow and Case, and other Houshold stuff, worth 3 l. then went into his Stable, and took his Horse, worth 2 l. 10 s. and about twenty five hundred weight of Hay, worth 1 l. 15 s.

And upon the 22d of the 1st moneth, (75.) *Overton* and *Basely* took a Horse and a Mare that were in *Joseph Harrison*'s Ground; the Horse was his own, but the Mare was not, yet they sold them both, notwithstanding *Joseph* told them, *The Mare was not his own*; she was worth 3 l. and the Horse was worth 20 s. in all 4 l.

The 1st day of the 2d moneth (75.) *Francis Page*, *John Cooke*, *John Basely*, *William Sudbury* and *Christopher Overton*, went to *Joseph*'s Stall in the Market, saying, *They were come*

again

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again upon the old account; and they took six stone and two pound of Beef (fourteen pound to the stone) came to 16 s. 5 d. — 24

The 8th day of the same moneth they came again to him in the Market, and took away four stone and five pound of Beef, 13 s.

The 15th of the same moneth most of the same Officers came again to *Joseph*'s Stall in the Market, and took from him eight stone and eleaven pound of Beef, came to 1 l. 6 s. 9 d. 1-6-9

The 27th of the 3d moneth (75.) *Rice Guin* and *Marsh Thorp* Wardens, *John Cooke* a Constable, and *Humphry Moore* an Over-seer, went to *Joseph*'s Stall in the Market, and took from him five stone and five pound of Beef, worth 16 s. 16

The 10th of the 4th moneth (75.) *Guin*, *Cooke* and *Moore* went again to his Stall, and took away four stone and nine pound of Beef, worth 13 s. 13

The 1st day of the 5th moneth (75.) *Guin*, *Thorp*, *Cooke* and *Bately* went again to his Stall, and took from him five stone and five pound of Beef, worth 15 s. 15

The 8th day of the same moneth the same Officers came again to *Joseph*'s Stall in the Market, and took from him five stone and four pound of Beef, came to 15 s. 15

The 15th of the same moneth, *Thorp*, *Cooke*, *Bately* and *Sudbury* came again as he stood in his Stall, and took from him eleven stone and five pound of Beef, worth 1 l. 10 s. 1-10-0

[Note, *Here are Goods taken away Twelve several times from one Person, for one Fine, grounded upon a wrong Information.*

Upon the 18th of the 12th moneth (74.) some of the Officers of *Felgate* went to *Edmund Peckrun*'s Shop, and said, *Now the Warrant was altered, and they were come to Train for the* 10 s. fine; they sought for Money, but finding none but the Change-Box, they took out of it in small change 4 s. 10 — 6

Upon the first day of the first moneth (75.) they went again to *Edmund*'s Shop, and took away 6 s. in Money to make up his Fine, 6 s. 6-5-9

And concerning *Mary* the Wife of *Francis Larder*, who was fined 10 s. in the said Warrant by *Christopher Bedingfield*, the Officers came to strain for it; but seeing little left in the House, except the Bed she lay on, they went away, and reported the same to the said Magistrate, who commanded the said Officers to take her Bed from under her, though they told him, she was more like to Dye than to Live; and she did Dye the same Night, being the first day of the first moneth, 75. in the morning.

☞ Note, Mary Larder's *Husband was one that was not called a* Quaker; *yet, according to his wife's Desire, he was willing she should be Buryed in Friends Burying-Ground, which was accordingly done: but the Savage Cruelty of some acted upon her Dead Body, ought not to be buryed in Oblivion; for upon the* 5th *day of the same moneth* Thomas Bretland's *Servant,* Richard Tendick *and one* Robert Bloome *pulled the Dead Corps out of the Grave (where it ought to have rested) in an Inhuman Manner, breaking the Coffin, so as they were forced to tye it together, lest the Corps should fall out; and they brought it and set it in the* Market-place, *by* Edmund Peckover's *Door, to the great Amazement of many People, who were troubled at the sight thereof, she having been some dayes in the Ground. This is an Action which would be detested of the sober* Heathens: *How great a Shame then is it, to see and hear of such* Barbarity *amongst those that would be called* CHRISTIANS! *though how far they are from the* Nature of Christianity, *that are the Actors of such* Tragedies *as these, is apparent to all True* Christians.

The

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The 12th day of the 7th moneth (75.) Friends being peaceably met at the Houſe of *Joſeph Harriſon*, *William Watt*'s Wife came to the Door, and ſtay'd a while looking upon Friends, and went away; ſo *Watt* and his Wife went to *Chriſtopher Crow* of *Eaſt-Bilney*, a Juſtice (ſo called) and ſwore it a Meeting, and he granted out his Warrant, and fined as followeth; *Joſeph Harriſon* for the Houſe 9l. *Fran. Hill* 10s. for himſelf, and 3s. for *Sarah Hill*, and 6l. for the Houſe; *Nathaniel Urine* 10s. for himſelf, 10s. for *Mary Mayes*, 5s. for *Mary Turner*, and 5l. for the Houſe of *Joſeph Harriſon*: *Edmund Peckover* for his Wife 10s. *Joſeph Peckover* 10s. for himſelf, and 10s. for his Siſter *Rebeckah*; *Roſe Cambridge* Widow 10s. and *Thomas Watſon* and his Wife 20s.

So on the 25th day of the 7th moneth (75.) the Officers of *Herningtaſt*, viz. *Thomas Reeve* Warden and Over-ſeer, with ſeveral others, went to *Fran. Hill*'s to levy his Fine of 6l. 15s. and took from him twenty one yards of Cloth, two Horſes, and another parcel of Cloth, in all worth 7l. 15s. and in Money 2l. 9s. 6d. in all 10l. 4s. 6d. 10-4-6

The 28th of the 7th moneth, 1675. the Officers of *Fakenham*, viz. *Rice Gwin* and *March Thorp* Wardens, *Robert Thompſon* and *Hugh Farret* Conſtables, and *Humphry Moore* Over-ſeer, went to *Edmund Peckover*'s Shop to levy his fine of 10s. for his Wife's being at the ſaid Meeting at *Joſeph Harriſon*'s, and they took from him nine yards of Ell-wide Green Say, worth above 20s. 1-0-0 0-10-0 12-2-0

Upon the ſame day the ſaid Officers went to the Widow *Cambridge*, her Houſe, to levy her fine of 10s. for being at the ſaid Meeting, and they took from her three Braſs Kettles and five Pewter Diſhes, worth 18s.

[Note, *Upon the ſame day they went to* Tho. Watſon *to levy his Fine of* 20s. *but he had been ſo pillaged before, that there was little worth the taking; he, his Wife and Children were forced to lie upon Straw, ſo little Mercy found they amongſt their Neighbours.*

The

The 19th of the 8th moneth (75.) the Officers of *Walsingham*, viz. *John Pattington* a Warden, *William Hawn* and *Rob. Feltwell* Constables went to *Nath. Urine*'s Shop with a Warrant from Justice *Crow* aforesaid, to levy his fine of 61. 5 s. for himself and others being at the said Meeting, and they took from him thirteen pound and one half of Hose-Yarn, worth above 11.

4 The 18th of the 10th moneth (75.) the said Officers went
1-0-0 again to *Nathaniel Urine*'s Shop, and took from him Waistcoats,
4-10-0 Tobacco, Pipes, Boxes and Writing Paper, as much as was worth 4 l. 10 s.

The 18th of the first moneth (76.) the Officers of *Walsingham* aforesaid, went to the said *Nathaniel*'s Shop again to make up his fine, and they took from him his Mare, all that he had left; she was well worth 21.

2-0-0 The 29th of the 8th moneth, 75. the Officers of *Fakenham*, viz. *Rice Guin* and *March Thorp* Wardens, *Rob. Thompson* and *Hugh Farret* Constables, and *Humphry Moore* Over-seer, went
0-10-0 to *Joseph Harrison*'s Shop to levy his fine for the said Meeting, and they took three Tallow-Loaves, came to 16 s.

The 4th of the 9th moneth (75.) the same Officers came again
12 to his Stall in the Market, and took from him six stone and one pound of Beef, worth 12 s.

12 The 18th day of the same moneth the Officers came again to *Joseph*'s Stall, and took away six stone and one pound of Beef,
11 6 worth 12 s.

The 1st of the tenth moneth following the Officers came again to his Stall, and took away five stone and six pound of Beef, worth 11 s. 6 d.

The 9th of the same moneth they came again to his Stall, and
10-0 took away from him eight stone and four pound of Beef, worth 18 s.

The 30th of the same moneth the Officers went again to *Jo-*
3-11-0 *seph Harrison*'s Shop in the Evening, when it began to be dark, to fetch again; he asked them, *What! for the Old Warrant still?*
14-4-6 they said, *For the Old and the New both*: so they took away a very

very fat Bullock, that was killed and hung up, and two Tallow-Loaves, all worth 3 l. 11 s.

The 6th of the 11th moneth they came again to his ſtall in the Market, and took from him five ſtone and an half of Beef, worth 12 s.

The 13th day of the ſame moneth they came again to his Stall, and took away ſeven ſtone and eleaven pound of Beef, worth 18 s.

The 3d day of the 12th moneth (75.) the ſaid Officers came to *Joſeph Harriſon*'s Stall again, and told him, *They were come for more Beef*; and they took from him ſix ſtone of Beef, worth 15 s.

The 9th of the ſame moneth, in the Evening, the ſaid Officers came again to his Shop to levy; for they ſaid, *They had not yet made up their Fines*: ſo he having a whole Bullock hung up in the Shop, *Humphry Moore* being himſelf a Butcher, clave it down, and his Boy brought his Beaſt and carryed it away; it was worth above 2 l. 10 s.

The tenth day of the ſaid twelfth moneth *March Thorp* came to *Joſeph Harriſon*, and told him, *He had caſt up the Bills of what they had taken for the two laſt Fines, and they had but about* 22 l. *yet*; although himſelf and *Rice Gwin* had told him, when they came to levy upon the 30th of the 10th moneth foregoing, *That they had then* 22 l. *odd Money*; ſince which day they had taken two fat Bullocks, with three parcels of Beef, and two Tallow-Loaves, and yet ſay they had but 22 l. or about 22 l. And indeed, its credibly reported, That ſome of the Officers buy of the Meat for a ſmall matter (if any thing) and whether they give any Account or not, we do not know. It is reported alſo, That ſome of them have ſate great part of ſeveral Nights Drinking with *Watt* the Informer. This is the Havock and Spoil they have made of Innocent People's Goods, for which they have laboured hard, and for which one day their Perſecutors muſt give an Account to God.

About the beginning of the 2d moneth (76.) *William Watt*, or.

or his Wife, or both, went and informed Sr. *Chriſtopher Calthorp* (ſo called) of a Meeting at *Joſeph Harriſon*'s the 5th of the firſt moneth before; whereupon he iſſued out his Warrant to bring *Joſeph Harriſon*, *Margaret Peckover* and *Nathaniel Urine*, with ſome others, before him; and accordingly they did appear before him: and the ſaid *Watt* and his Wife did upon their Oaths depoſe, *That they ſtood in a certain Cloſe* (which is about a quarter of a Furlong from *Joſeph*'s Gate) *and ſaw* Joſeph Harriſon, Nath. Urine *and a Woman come out of* Joſeph's *Gate, and go up towards the* Pownd (or Pinfold) *and ſaw* Fran. Hill *come out of the ſaid Gate, and go in again, and take his Horſe, and go up into the Town*; and further, *That he ſaw the Widow* Cambridge *and* Mary Mayes *come out of the Gate alſo.* Upon this Information the ſaid Magiſtrate fined *Joſeph Harriſon* 7 l. *Marg. Peckover* 10 s. *Joſeph Peckover* 10 s. *Rebeckah Peckover* 10 s. *Tho. Watſon* 10 s. *Mary May* 10 s. *Roſe Cambridge* 10 s. *Anne Bee* 10 s. *William Bullard* 10 s. *Nath. Urine* 7 l. and *Fran. Hill* 7 l.

[Note, *The Evidence and Proof given by the* Informers, *was only* (*to this effect*) That they ſaw certain Perſons come out of *Joſeph Harriſon*'s Gate, *upon which the ſaid Juſtice grounded his Warrant to levy for a* Meeting *in* Joſeph's *houſe. Surely this kind of proceeding is without Compariſon, and doth demonſtrate a great deal of Cruelty and Inhumanity, beyond either Law or Reaſon.*

So upon the 13th of the 2d moneth (76.) the Officers of *Walſingham*, viz. *Will. Leverington* Warden, *Tho. Capper* and *Tho. Cooper* Conſtables, went to *Nathaniel Urine*'s Shop with a Warrant from the ſaid *Chriſtopher Calthorp*, to levy the ſaid Fine of 7 l. and they took from him a Box of Tobacco, a Box of Pipes and a Stock-Lock, worth 12 s. 9 d.

The 27th of the 3d moneth (76.) the ſaid Officers with ſome others went to *Nathaniel Urine*'s Shop to levy again, and they took from him Hoſe-Yarn, Tobacco, Paper and other Goods, to the value of 3 l. 10 s.

About the 20th day of the 2d moneth (76.) the Officers of

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Fakenham, with *Watt* the Informer, went to *John Bee's*, to levy for his Wife's Fine, and took from him a Bedstead, Curtains and Vallens, and other Bedding, worth 17 s. 12-9

The same day the said Officers went to *Edmund Peckover's* Shop to strain with two Warrants for 50 s. his Wife asked them, *For what?* and they said, *For 20 s. for her Son* Joseph *& her Daughter* Rebecca, *ordered by Justice* Crow, *and* 30 s *for her, and her Son* Joseph, *and Daughter* Rebecca, *ordered by Justice* Calthorp; she required to see their Warrants, which they seemed loath to do, but at last did shew it her, and *Christopher Calthorp* had ordered them in his Warrant to take *Edm. Peckover's* Goods only for his Wife's Offence, and of *Joseph* and *Rebecca's* own Goods for their Fines; but they said, *It was all one, they would take the Father's Goods for their Fines:* and they took away thirty seven yards one half of Alking Holland; *Moorland* took it, and carryed it away by *Thompson's* order; it was worth 3 l. 10 s. 3-10-0

The 4th of the 3d moneth (76.) the Officers of *Fakenham*, and *Watt* the Informer went to *Rose Cambridge*, a poor Widow, to strain for 10 s. and they took from her a Trunk with five Sheets in it, and a Napkin, the Covering off her Bed, a Blanket, a Table, two Chairs, and other things, in all worth 1 l. 5 s. 1-5-0

The same day the said Officers went to *William Bullard's*, a poor man, having very little in his House worth taking, only a Bedstead, which was a good one, and by the said Warrant for his 10 s. fine; they set *Watt* the Informer to take it down, with a good Tester and Cord, and a Bed-board and Plank, worth 12 s. 0-12-0

The 11th of the 3d moneth (76.) *Tho. Moorland* Warden, *Rob. Doulton* and *Hugh Jarret* Constables, went to *Thomas Watson's*, having five Children, and said, *They were come to levy* 10 s. *by virtue of a Warrant from Sr.* Chr. Calthorp; but he being a very poor man they could not find any thing of value, so they went away; but in the afternoon the said *Moorland*, *Jarret* and *Doulton* went to *Tho. Watson's* Wife, as she was in the Market; for she baked a little Bread to sell, to help to maintain her poor Children, and so Hard-hearted were they, that they took all the Bread she had, being Nineteen Penny-worth. 1-7

9 7 7

The 15th of the same moneth they came again, and took from her Fourteen Penny-worth more, in both 2 s. 9 d.

The 2d day of the 4th moneth (76.) *William Watt* the Informer and his Wife went to *Walsingham* Market with a Warrant directed to the Officers of *Fakenham*, from *Christopher Calthorp*, who had written a few words at the bottom of the Warrant to the Officers of *Walsingham* to levy *Joseph Harrison*'s Meat at the Market; so *Tho. Capper* and *Thomas Cooper* Constables, and *Will. Framingham* Warden, went to *Joseph Harrison*'s Stall in the Market, and told him, Will. Watt *had brought them a Warrant from Sr.* Chr. Calthorp, *to strain his Meat*; he bid them read it, which they did; and he told them, *That was* Fakenham *Warrant, he did believe they need not take unless they would*; they said, *Sr.* C. Calthorp *had sent to them, and they must and would take*: so they took as much Beef and Lamb as came to 16 s.

Note.

It is observable, that this William Watt *the Informer, that has been so active in persecuting his honest Neighbours, whereby they have been so spoiled, as is before related, the Lord laid an heavy Judgment upon his Body, whereby he was made a publick Example of the Anger and Displeasure of God against this his Wicked and Ungodly Practice; for several Times when he has come to our Meetings, to inform against us, he has been so seized on, that he could not speak of a long time; and when he has gone away, has been forced to stand still several times in less than a Furlong going: It was observed, that his Illness seized most upon him when he was most busie in this Work; which caused him and his Wife to say,* The Quakers bewitch't him: *he made such strange Noises many times when his Fit was upon him, that many were much affrighted with it, which caused many sober people to say,* His Work of Informing was Bad, and he would come to a Bad End. *And about the 16th day of the 8th mon. 1679. he was stirring as he used to be about his Wicked Work, and at Night eat his Supper, as his Wife says, as well as ever he did, and after he had sup't, suddenly fell down on the Floor, and his Daughter skreek't out, and he stared on her, it seems, and so died,*

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verfal of Vermine; and he had a nasty stinking Body by his Life time, and so he dyed; and it was very hard to get any Body to carry him to burying, only the Over-seers for the Poor hired four men to carry him. Note also, *That notwithstanding all the Money and Goods that he had gotten from the Sufferers by his Informing, the Parish was fain to keep him before he dyed, and be at the Charge of burying him; and also now are fain to keep his Wife, who was a Companion with him in this Wished Work.*

Note also, *That* John Richmond, *a Companion of the aforesaid* Watt *in his Informing, who having had before pretty well about him, is since come to take Collection of the Parish.*

Affected by *Joseph Harrison*, *Margaret Peckover*,
Anne Harrison, *Tho. Watson* and his Wife,
Edmund Peckover; *Joseph Peckover*.

Upon the 16th day of the 6th moneth, 78. *John Hilyard* Priest and Justice (so called) issued out a Warrant to levy 20l. upon the Goods of *Joseph Harrison*, for a Meeting, which the said Warrant said was at his House the 14th of *July*, 78. not expressing the Informers Names; and in pursuance of this Warrant, the 12th of the 7th moneth (78.) the Officers of *Fakenham*, viz. *Tho. Brettland* Warden, *Tho. Salmon* Constable, *Hen. Gogney* Over-seer, came to *Joseph Harrison*'s Stall as he stood in the Market, and took from him seven stone and twelve pound of Beef, worth 18s. 10

The 19th day of the same moneth, *Tho. Salmon* and *Edward Brown* Constables, *Hen. Gogney* and *Rob. Dolton* Over-seers, came again to *Jos. Harrison*'s Stall in the Market, and took from him seven stone and nine pound of Beef, worth 16s. 16

The 20th of the same moneth the said Officers went to *Joseph*'s stall again, and took eight stone & seven pound of Beef, worth 18 s.

The 10th of the 8th moneth, *Hen. Gogney*, *Rob. Dalton*, *Rich. Pauly* and *Tho. Brettland* came again to his Stall, and took eight stone and four pound of Beef, worth 18s. 10

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The 25d of the same, the said Officers came again with *T. Garret* the Butcher, Constable, came to *Joseph*'s House, and finding the Shop door locked, asked him to open it, which *Joseph* refused; *Bretland* said, *He must break it up*; *Joseph* told him, *It was more than the Law required*; *Bretland* replyed, *He cared not for that, he was ordered so to do*: so they brake open the Door, and took 5. quarters of Beef, 2. Tallow-loaves 2. Hides, in all worth 3 l. 10 s.

3-10-0 The 6th of the 9th moneth some of the same Officers came again to the House of *Joseph Harrison* to levy for the same fine, and threatned to break open the Door; for they had such Order (they said) from the Magistrate; *Joseph* replyed, *They had no such Order from the King and Parliament*; yet they brake open the Door, and took to the value of seven quarters of Beef and two Tallow-loaves. worth 3 l. 15 s.

3-15-0 [Note, *It is credibly reported, that some of the Officers sold this Beef for* 8 d. *per stone, though* Joseph *sold of the same for* 2 s. 4 d. *per stone: and the Tallow for* 8 d. *a stone, and* Joseph *sold his Tallow about that time for* 3 s. 8 d. *per stone, at fourteen pound to the stone.*

The 14th of the same moneth, *Tho. Bretland* Warden, *Tho. Garret* Butcher, *Fran. Page* and *Rich. Pawly* Constables, *Rob. Dalton* Overseer, went to *Joseph Harrison*'s when he was from home, and they brake up several Doors, and took away about fourteen stone of Beef, three quarters of Mutton, four Tallow-loaves,

2-5-0 worth together 2 l. 5 s.

The same day in the afternoon, *Page*, *Dalton*, *Gogney* and *Pawly* came into the Market to *Joseph*'s Stall, and took away from him

16 eight stone of Beef, worth 16 s.

The 12th of the 10th moneth the Officers came again to his Stall, and took as much Beef as was worth above 18 s.

The 19th day they came again to his Stall to levy, and took

18 nine stone of Beef, worth 18 s.

The same day *Joseph*'s Son brought two Bullock's Hides into Market, they took them also away, which were worth above 1 l.

11-4-0 The same day *Joseph* brought more Beef into Market for his

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Customers, and as soon as he had cut it out, *Bretland*, *Gogney*, *Garret* and *Pawly* came again, and took it all, not suffering him to sell any to his Customers; it was worth about 16 s. 0-16-0

Upon the 9th of the 7th moneth, 1678. *Wil. Leverington*, *John Ditchfield* and *John Williamson*, Officers of *Walsingham*, came to *Nathaniel Brine* of the same Town, with a Warrant from the aforesaid *John Hilyard*, and for a fine of 10 s. imposed on him for himself and his Wife being at the Meeting at *Joseph Harrison's*, the 14th of the 5th moneth aforesaid, and they took from him 15 l. of Tobacco, cut and dryed, worth 12 s. besides a Box with it. 12

The 17th of the 6th moneth, 1678. *Tho. Bretland* Warden, *Tho. Garret*, *Tho. Salmon* and *Edw. Boston* Constables, and *Robert Dolton* Overseer, came to *Edmund Peckover's* Shop, with a Warrant granted forth by *John Hilyard*, the said Priest & Magistrate, to strain for 10 s. for *Margaret* his Wife being at a Meeting at *Harrison's* House the 14th of the 5th moneth, and they took in Money 10 s. & they took 5 s. more at the same time for their Son *Walter Peckover*, although not mentioned in the said Warrant.

The 18th of the 12th moneth, *Tho. Bretland* & *Rob. Sheldrake* Wardens, *Hen. Gogney* and *Rob. Dolton* Over-seers, and *Francis Page* a Constable, came to *Edmund Peckover's* Shop with a Warrant from *John Hilyard* aforesaid, to strein for 15 s. for a Meeting at *Joseph Harrison's*, for which they took a piece of fine Holland of about twenty two yards, worth about 3 l. 3-0-0

About the 12th of the 12th moneth, 78. *J. Hilyard* aforesaid granted a Warrant against *Edm. Peckover*, to have him brought before him, and to bring Sureties for his Good Behaviour, because, being Over-seer for the Poor in the Town of *Fakenham*, he refused to strein the Goods of *Joseph Harrison* for a Meeting the fourteenth of the fifth moneth at the House of the said *Joseph Harrison*, whereupon the said *John Hilyard* granted a Warrant to strein 5 l. upon the said *Edm. Peckover's* Goods, for which fine of 5 l. *Tho. Bretland* with some other Officers went to a Chest of the said *E. P's*, where some of his best Goods were, and took 4 whole pieces of Serges, with 3 other pieces of Stuff, & about 12 yards of Hair Camblet, and ten yards of Hair Grogrin; they returned part of these Goods, but kept for the said 5 l. fine to the value of 13 l. and upward. *Robert* 13-0-0

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Rob. Curby of *Holt* was fined for a Meeting at the same Town upon the 30th of the 10th moneth, 78. the sum of 10l. 5s.

More, the said *Robert* was fined for a Meeting at *Holt* aforesaid, upon the 6th of the 11th moneth, 78. but the said *Robert* was not at the Meeting, yet *Fra. Guybon* of *Thurford* issued out his Warrants, and upon the 13th day of the 11th moneth *Will. Carr* and *J. Bacon* Over-seers, *Sam. Dalibon* Constable, *John Brett* and *John Canham* Wardens, took away from the said *Robert* sixteen Hats and a parcel of Hat-bands, worth 1l. 5s.

1-5-0 Moreover, the Door of the said *Robert Curby* was broken open by the Informers, they having some of the Officers present with them, and they took away a Table, six Chairs, one Bedstead with Curtains and Vallens, three Bedsteads more, two Chests, one Coffer, with several other Houshold Goods, with about sixty odd stone of Wool, worth together about 12l.

12-0-0 *James Bunting* of *Burningham*, for a Meeting at *Holt* the 30th of the 10th moneth aforesaid, was fined 5l. 5s. by a Warrant from the aboveſaid *Fra. Guybon*, and upon the 14th day of the 11th moneth following the Officers of the said Town took from

1-10-0 him one Coat, one pair of Breeches and a Hat, one Bible, one Cloak-bag, with several other things, worth 30s.

16 15-0

Here follow more Sufferings for *Abſenting from the Steeple-Houſe*, being lately executed.

THe 20th of the 6th moneth, 1678. *Tho. Brettland* Churchwarden (ſo called) *Tho. Salmon* and *Tho. Garret* Conſtables, with *Hen. Gegney* an Over-ſeer, came to the Shop of *E. Prekover* to ſtrein for 15s. for himſelf, his Wife, his Son *Walter* and two Maid-Servants, for Abſenting three Weeks from the Pariſh Church (ſo call'd) ſo they took for the 15s. one piece of fine Bearge, worth 3l. And *Tho. Brettland*'s Wife ſent to borrow 20s. of *Edward Prekover*, ſo ſent the piece of

This was with a Warrant from *Fra. Guybon* of *Thurford*.

Bearge

Searge again with 5 s. in Money by her Servant, retaining only 15 s. 0-15-0

The 29th of the 8th moneth, *Tho. Bretland* with some other Officers came to the Shop of *Edmund Peckover*, with a Warrant from *Chr. Calthorp*, to strein for 15 s. for himself, his Wife, two Sons and one Servant, for three Weeks absenting from the Parish Church (so called) so *Margaret Peckover* went to the Magistrate, to let him know, she with her two Sons were not at home some part of the time for which they were fined, and therefore no Reason they should be fined: *Were you at Church?* (said the Magistrate) *Yes, we were*, said she: *Chr. Calthop* replyed, *You and the* Papists *are all one, and you hear the* Jesuits, *and they deceive you*; which is a manifest if not malicious Slander: Notwithstanding the Officers came and took away seven pieces of Dimity, which said pieces were brought again by a Neighbour that owed *Edm. Peckover* some Money.

The 26th of the 10th moneth, 1678. *Tho. Bretland* with some other Officers came with Warrants from *Chr. Calthorp* for *Edm. Peckover*, his Wife, his Son and one Servant absenting from their Parish Church (so called) for which they demanded 33 s. because they could not pay to their Demands, they took one whole piece of Searge, and two pieces more that had but little cut off them, worth 5 l. 10 s. and some time after the said *Tho. Bretland came* and brought 15 s. and said, *There was the Overplus of that which remained of the said Searges*; but *M. Peckover* refused to receive it, saying, *She would not take a Shilling for so much Goods.* 5-10-0

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1-6-15-0

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POSTSCRIPT.

AND now, after all this Violence used, and Spoil made upon this People, I desire the Reader honestly and conscientiously to weigh and consider, What Evil has these Sufferers done, or what Law of God have they broke, or just Laws of men have they

transgressed? which is the principal matter to weigh and consider that so thou may'st not in thy haste give a wrong Judgment, and from that draw a false Conclusion, and run with the Multitude, who decry the Truth, & persecute them that live in it, and say, *That they ought to suffer because they have broke the Law*: Now to say so, without distinction, is to draw a wrong conclusion, without well considering what the Law is, and what sort of people it lays hold upon; for the Law of God does not nor will not punish a righteous man, as the Apostle says, 1 *Tim.* 1. 6. *The Law was not made for a Righteous man, but for the Lawless and Disobedient, &c.* So also the just Laws of men, that are instituted & made according to that equal and reasonable Principle which God has plac'd a measure of in every man, which would, if it be adhered unto, teach & guide people *to do unto others even as they would be done unto*; such Laws preserve men in their Liberties and Properties, and not destroy them; that every man has an equal share, according to his place and degree of Preservation by them, or ought to have, that is honest; but those Laws that are or have been made to deprive men of their just Liberties, which God allows them, and requires them to use to his Glory, and afflict their Bodies, and spoil their Goods, & ruin them because they take that Liberty that the Lord allows them, which is, *to worship him in that Way as he is pleased to reveal and make known himself unto them*; that Law is not according to the Law of God; and it is under such Laws, or the resting of good Laws, that the Righteous in Ages past & also now do suffer; and them are the Laws that envious people boast of, as said the *envious Jews* of Christ, *John* 19. 7. *We have a Law, and by our Law he ought to dye*; and so said *bloody Bonner* and the rest of his persecuting Brethren to the faithful Martyrs of Jesus in Q. *Mary's* days, who put so many to death because they could not bow to the *Popish Superstition*, who upbraided those worthy men and women because they were not subject to the Queen's Laws, which if they had, *they must have defiled their Consciences, who chose rather to lose all and obey Christ, than to sin against the Lord, and thereby bring destruction upon their own Souls*: And we would have all people take notice, that this is and has been our case, that are concerned in this

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this Relation of Sufferings, ſo far as the Lord has been pleaſ'd to ſuffer our Perſecutors to proceed; for their Words and Actions have been of the ſame nature; for ſay they, *We have a Law* (as ſay *Chr. Calthorp* and others of them) *and we are Sworn to put it in execution*: but I hope he is not ſworn to exceed it in Cruelty, as it appears in this Relation he has ſometimes done egregiouſly. Alſo the Informers they ſay to the Sufferers, *You break the Law, and therefore your Sufferings are juſt upon you*; as it was an Argument *Will. Watt* the old Informer uſed very much, with many other taunting & unſavoury Speeches unto the Sufferers, on whom the Lord laid an heavy Judgment long before he dyed, which might have been as a Warning unto the reſt of them that had an hand in this evil work of *perſecuting their honeſt Neighbours*; *but*, ſay they, *we have a Law*: but if the Law-makers did really intend, that none ſhould ſuffer by this Law, but ſuch perſons as they ſay were the cauſe for which they made this Law, then *Chriſtoph. Calthorp*, and the reſt of his Brethren, have very much exceeded their bounds in what they have done againſt their innocent and peaceable Neighbours. And *Cook* in his *Inſtitutions*, who is ſaid to be the *Oracle of the Engliſh Law*, in his firſt part, cap. 2. §. 3. Book 11. *Ever the general words are to be intended of a lawful Act, and ſuch interpretation muſt be made of all Statutes, that the Innocent, or he in whom there is no Guilt, may not be damnified.* For the Preamble of the Act, which expreſſes the Reaſon or falſe Cauſe why this Law was made (if we may believe the Law-makers) is thus expreſt, *An Act to ſuppreſs Seditious Conventicles, & Diſloyal Perſons, who at their Meetings Plot and Contrive Inſurrections, as late experience has taught, &c.* Now the Queſtion is, whether or no any thing of that kind can be proved againſt *Joſeph Harriſon*, and the reſt of theſe Sufferers? and whether any of theſe Informers did ever ſwear, that they found *Joſeph Harriſon* and his Friends at their Meetings plotting or contriving Inſurrections, for the preventing and puniſhing of which Perſons the Law was made? No, there were never, nor could be ſuch things proved againſt them; for the Principle which they have received, & do obey, which is the Grace of God, teaches them better things,

which

which is, *to obey Christ's Doctrine, to do unto others as they would have others do unto them*, which is but equal. And although they have made use of those words in the Act, of *Five and upwards meeting together besides the Family, under pretence of Religious Exercise, in other manner than is allowed by the Liturgy*, to inflict the Penalties of Breach of that Law upon us, yet the Five and above the number must have Relation to such as be seditious and contrive Insurrections, and are Meeters but in Pretence of Religious Exercise, &c. But our Meetings are really to worship God in Spirit and Truth, and the contrary has not been proved against them, neither can be; and therefore the Law in that case that is made and provided does not lay hold on them; for the Reason why this Act was made we are wholly clear of, both in the sight of God and all men; for neither in our Meetings nor out of them, we never did, or is it in our hearts to do, to contrive any thing that is or may be hurtful either to Prince or People; but we do say, that our Meetings are for no other End or Cause, but to wait upon God, and to call upon his Name for his Power to keep us and to preserve us, and for his Grace to teach us and instruct us, that so we may alwayes worship him in his own Way, which is in Spirit and Truth, which all Plotters and Contrivers of Insurrection are out of. And if the *Liturgy* does allow, that God should be worshipped in Spirit and Truth, then the Informers have Forsworn themselves, who swore, [*That our Exercise of Religion is in other manner than the Liturgy allows.*] And I am ready to believe, that the Leading-men of the *Church of England* will acknowledge, that they are to worship God in Spirit and in Truth; which if so, why should it be accounted a Crime for us to confess the same, and so great a Crime, as if for it there was neither Mercy nor Pity, Equity nor Justice to be extended towards us, as appears by the fore-going Relation, in which *Chr. Calthorp*, with the rest of his Brethren, the persecuting Magistrates and Informers, have so furiously persecuted their honest Neighbours; as if God had made them, their Wives and Children to be made a Prey upon, and to be oppressed; as if it were Religion enough to Ruin and Undo others, and to take the Bread from the Poor, and Clothes from the

the Needy, whilst these Magistrates themselves live in Fulness of Bread, who (like *Dives*) fare deliciously, and clothed with Rich Attire (like the Rich Man spoken of by Christ) have not only refused and neglected to relieve the Poor, but have been Instrumental, by encouraging these evil-minded Informers to take away poor peoples Clothes they wore, and their Beds they lay upon, and their Bedding, and expose them to the Cold, without either Mercy or Pity to old or young, or sick; for when the Officers went to *Chr. Bedingfield*, one of these Magistrates, and told him, that there was nothing to be had of one *Mary Larder* for her fine, but her Bed on which she lay at that time sick, & more like to dye than to live, the said *Chr. Bedingfield* bad them *Go and take the Bed from under her*; which said *Mary* dyed that Night: Oh great Cruelty! and if this be not to over-pass the Deeds of many of the Wicked, I know not what is; for Christ does not render *Dives* himself so bad. And now I question not but both Magistrates & the Officers and Informers, who have done these things, would judge it hard dealings if any should do by them as you have done by these your honest Neighbours, and for no other Cause than for their Obedience to the Lord; then out of your own Mouthes you are judged, and that you have not done by them as you would be done unto; and therefore you have no cause to blame me and other sober men that hear of your Actions although we do say, that the Informers, Officers and Justices, that encourage such Proceedings as these are, are to blame, and the Sufferers have just Cause to complain of the great Oppression that so long has lain upon them, and to give the World an account of your unmerciful dealing with them and behaviour towards them, who have exercised your Cruelty upon them these many years, by spoiling their Goods from time to time of them that are alive; and yet it appears that all this Cruelty does not satisfie your unreasonable Minds, that you have done to the Living, but you have shewn your Cruelty to the Dead, in that some of you in the Town of *Fakenham* have pulled the Dead out of the Grave in an inhumane manner, more like Beasts of Prey then People that fear God, after the Body was decently buried, whereby you discover your selves

to

to be far worse and more Cruel than those accounted *Heathen* that *Abraham* lived among, who offered him a piece of Ground to bury his Dead in; but your Envy is so great against the People of God, that you will not let them live at quiet amongst you whilst they live, nor let the Body lie quietly in the Grave when it was dead. And now I having viewed your Works, and taken notice of your Actions, which are scarcely to be parallel'd for Cruelty in this Nation, considering the long continuance of your Oppression, for which you have a large Account to give to the Lord, from the highest of you to the lowest, that have had any hand in persecuting your innocent Neighbours, without any just Cause by them given you.

And now it is upon me from the Lord, to Warn you all that have had any hand in this Work, to Repent of this your Cruelty and Abuses offered and done unto his People, before it is too late, and the Day of your Visitation passes over, and you be shut up in utter Darkness, and the Lord ceases to strive with you, as he did with *Jerusalem* of old, in whose steps you have walked in oppressing his Children, and evil-entreating his Servants and Messengers that he has sent amongst you, to exhort you to turn from the Evil of your Ways, and the Violence that is in your Hands & Hearts; but instead of receiving them and their Testimony, you have persecuted them to suffer, and them that did receive them and their Testimony, you have from time to time evilly requited them, so that you would not receive them your selves, nor suffer them that would, if by all the Violence you could use hinder them. The Lord give you Repentance before it be too late and you be cut off, is the Desire of him that chooses rather to suffer Affliction with the People of God, than to live in the Pleasures of this World.

S. Cater.

THE END.

THE Lamentable Cry OF OPPRESSION OR,

The Caſe of the Poor, Suffering & Perſecuted People called *Quakers* in and about FAKENHAM in NORFOLK.

Shewing the Cruelty, Injuſtice and Inhumanity of ſeveral Magiſtrates, Officers and Informers in thoſe Parts againſt the ſaid People for theſe many years, in the great Spoil and Havock of their Goods and Eſtates.

Repreſented to all Moderate Men in Authority, & their Neighbours and Country Men, in this impartial Relation; to the end that all may be warned from having a Hand in ſuch Unmerciful and Unchriſtian Dealings.

By a Well-wiſher to all your Souls, and one that through the Lord's Mercy hath been accounted worthy not only to believe, but alſo to ſuffer for the Truth's ſake, known to the World by the Name of

Joſeph Harriſon.

Ye ſhall be hated of all men for my Name's ſake; but he that endures to the End, the ſame ſhall be ſaved, Mark 13. 13.

Whoſoever hateth his Brother, is a Murderer; and ye know, no Murderer hath Eternal Life abiding in him, 1 John 3. 15.

What mean ye that ye beat my People to pieces, and grind the Faces of the Poor, ſaith the Lord God of Hoſts? Iſaiah 3. 15.

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TO THE READER

Serious Reader;

I Do desire thee impartially to peruse these ensuing Particulars, and then let the Witness of God in thy Conscience judge, whether these Proceedings are agreeable to Righteousness, Law and true Justice. Should we have set out all the Matter and Manner of Proceedings in the full Extent of it, it would have swelled into too big a Volumn, and haply have multiply'd the Sorrow of many tender and true-hearted *Protestants*, to hear of such Actions acted by professed *Protestants* one against another; and it may make the *Heathen* to question the *Christian Religion*, when they hear of those Rending, Tearing and Devouring Dealings amongst the Professors thereof. Certainly the *Papists* may Laugh at the great Victory they have gotten by [redacted] such a Law, as sets one *Protestant* against another, in such a Day as this; and that for no other Reason, but for their Sincerity to God-ward; not for any Vice, but for Virtue; when they themselves see it Policy to maintain Unity, though differing in some Circumstances, a thing practised in all Ages. But if thou cast thy Eyes, thou wilt see the great Promoters and Encouragers of this Stratagem, are such as would be

accounted the wiser sort in the Age; and that upon the same Foundation the *Jews* would have Christ put to Death, *We have a Law, and by our Law he ought to dye*, John 19. 7.

The Principal End of our writing is:

First, Thereby to Warn all Magistrates in and about *Fakenham*, to take heed for the future; our Cause is committed to the Lord, who hath pleaded it, and in this day rewarded our Service of Love, and given us that Treasure in our Earthen Vessels, which is of more Value than all our outward Substance lost, if summ'd up all together; from the Sense of which we can truly say the Scripture is fulfilled, *A Little that the Righteous hath, is of more value than great Riches*: and though you have taken our Goods, yet our Peace continues; and as our Sufferings abound, even so our Consolation hath much more abounded; so that now in the Lord have we cause to rejoyce, and be glad for ever and forever.

2dly, We hope this will warn all Officers, one and other, to take heed how they any more *break up Doors, break into Houses*, though under Pretence of Advice & Order, and then take away three or four times the value of the sum charg'd, making Friends to themselves by selling our Goods at one half of their worth, pleading Authority, but indeed prompt thereunto by a wicked and revengeful Spirit. *That God that sitteth in Heaven beholds such Unrighteous Actions, and when the whirlewind of his Displeasure arises, may scatter what the Ungodly have gather'd of the Spoil of the Innocent; for he is a Just God, and when he takes Vengeance of his Peoples Enemies, none shall withstand his Power*: and therefore to him we have committed our Cause.

3dly,

3dly, To Encourage you our *Relations* & *Neighbours*, who when our Adversaries have gather'd themselves in Companies to destroy, *have surrounded us with Tears in your Eyes, and Pity towards us*: Well, we hope you will now see the difference, between such as only profess the *Christian-Religion* and *Gospel-Righteousness* out of the Life thereof, and those that live a *Gospel-Life*, a *Life of Righteousness, and in that pure Religion which is unspotted from the World*: The Actions of Men demonstrate by what spirit they are led: If you see a *Lyon* greedy & devouring, will you call such a Creature a *Lamb*? no surely: *Adam* considering the Nature of every thing, gave it a fit Name: and certainly the Proceedings of our Enemies in the meaneſt Capacity, must be adjudged according to its Nature.

4thly, Consider who have been the *Agents* to carry on this *inhuman Design*; call them over by Name that have been the *Informers*, & see if you can pattern them for *ill living* in a whole County: if it had been a good Imployment, surely some good and sober Men would have been imployed in it, and accounted it a good Service. Dare any of you Justices, that have persecuted us, say, *That* William Watt *and his Wife, and several others, have not sworn Falsly many times*? and yet no Check put to them, no, but you must have all affirmed for Truth that they say, and that for no other Reason, but because they *Swear for the King*: Oh hard measure! Hath not the Lord pointed at this *W. Watt* with great & signal Remarks of his Judgments, that you the Justices and other the Officers might be warn'd thereby? But have you not been hardned, not considering the Hand of the Lord, and still encouraged this wicked *Informer* to proceed, & have taken his Testimony when he

he ſtood a good diſtance from the Houſe where the ſuſpition of a Meeting was, and when he ſaw three or four come out of *Joſeph Harriſon*'s Gate, concluding it to be upon ſuch an account, and no other; what proof of *Religious Exerciſe* was here? what ground to believe that *will. Watt* heard either *preaching* or *praying?* could any ſuch thing be made appear at ſuch a diſtance? and yet what was the Conſequence of this inſufficient Information, but *warrants*, *Diſtreſſes*, *Rending* and *Devouring*? Do the poor *Quakers* ſuffer becauſe they worſhip God? but if our Perſecutors have had the *Common-prayer* often read amongſt them, ſurely they have heard that part of it again and again (though they have little regarded it) that ſaith, *From Envy, Hatred and Malice good Lord deliver us*; but what Effects have been brought forth by them, is apparent to our impartial *Neighbours*. Oh! do not the Heavens bluſh, and is not the Earth aſham'd? what can you ſay for your ſelves, ſome of you? When four poor *Quakers* (ſo called) were travailing in the Way together, nothing looking like a *Conventicle* or *Meeting*, and becauſe that Number was inſufficient to convict by, did not the Informers eſpye a fifth Perſon on the Road, and a *Stranger to the other four*: what of *Religious Exerciſe* was here? and where was the number of *Five* here? what did you do to enquire the Truth of this out, and to correct the *Malice*, *Envy* and *Hatred* of the *Informers*? but was not this covicted by ſome of you, as a *Conventicle*, and *warrants* for the ſame been granted, and *Diſtreſſes* taken? did you ſend for the Accuſed, to hear them, and take part with them, as much as the *Law* would have permitted? *Hath Juſtice a Ballance in her Hand, and will you not put one grain of Equity into the Scale of the pretended Offender*? We

have

have cauſe to fear, you have taken your Meaſures to force Conformity upon us from ſome others beſides the *Engliſh Church* (ſo called.)

Have not ſome of our *Neighbours* had their *Cattel taken from them, under Pretence they were ſome of ours*, when indeed they were not, only the *Informer* ſaid *they were?* and what Relief could the Owner have at your hands for this Injury? none at all, until they were forced to *right themſelves before a Judge of Aſſize and Jury*? and then Juſtice was done them: And may I ask one Queſtion? *Pray, who bare the Charge of that Defence of Suit?* Poor *W. Watt* was altogether unable (& if you deny it) the People will ſtill ſurmiſe from whence he muſt have had ſupport. Indeed that *Informer* hath been like one of *Pharaoh's Lean Kine, that ſwallow'd the Fat, and yet was very illfavour'd*, for what was he the better for all he has been help'd to? nay, but has he not been much the worſe? what a *Curſe* hath gone along with it! and hath it not been ſeen by our Enemies? ſurely then they have wilfully ſhut their Eyes.

Have not ſmooth & fair words been ſpoken to ſome of us, although ſuddenly followed by Harſh and Cruel Actions? Oh *C. C!* were not theſe thy words? *We know you will not Swear, but give me a true Account, What was the Reaſon your Son & you were abſent from the Church, and I will believe you*: was not Anſwer then truly made, *Her Son* (that was one of the Perſons accuſed for not being at his *Pariſh Church* (ſo called) *was Sick all the time for which he was preſented, and ſhe her ſelf was to look to him moſt part of the time*: And was not this a true Anſwer? but what was the reſult of this? didſt thou not that Night grant out Warrants to diſtrain? and was it not done to the greateſt Extremity? And when

Di-

Diſtreſſes have been taken, which of you have made inquiry, whether Officers have not done more than they ought to have done, that ſo you might put a ſtop to part of the Cruelty? or, is there no *Mercy* to be extended to Perſons that differ in Manner of Worſhip from you? have you not read what that great Monarch of *England* ſaid to his Son? *The Extremity of the Law is Tyranny*: but have you abated us one tittle of it? *Fellons* and *Murderers* have had the Liberty to bring in *witneſſes* to clear themſelves when accuſed; but we are fallen into the hands of ſuch, as we muſt neither hear our Accuſation, nor know our Accuſers: However, we can ſay from the bottom of our Hearts, our Deſires are to the Lord, *That he would ſhew you Mercy, before your Sun be ſet, and your Day be over, and Mercy be excluded from you.*

And ſo tender-hearted *Reader*, I refer thee to the following particular Relation; and if thou haſt any Scruple of the Truth thereof, our Neighbours can fully ſatisfie thee of it, if thou enquire of ſuch who are without Prejudice to us, who can ſatisfie thee, our Sufferings have been much more than thou wilt find made publick herein. And now I commend thee to the Grace of God, and to the Appearance thereof in thine own Heart, that therein both thou and I may come to find Acceptance with him, and be approved in his Sight.

J. H.

THE Lamentable Cry OF OPPRESSION, &c.

A Brief Account of the Sufferings of the People of God called *Quakers* at *Fakenham*, upon the account of not going to the Steeple-Houſe, to their Worſhip; where for ſeveral Three Firſt Dayes Abſence therefrom, they had Goods taken from them, and were ſent to Priſon, as follow.

Firſt follows the Proceedings of Robert Sheldrake *and* Robert Pepper *againſt the ſaid People, in and about the Year* 1668.

IN the fourth moneth, (1668.) there was taken from *William Monk* a Chair-Table and four Joynt-Stools, to the valne of 6 s.

And taken from *Anne Harriſon* of the ſame Town a pair of Dog-irons, a Hake, a Chafing-diſh and a pair of Tongs, to

the value of 6 s. Her Husband being then a Priſoner in *Norwich* Caſtle.

Taken from *Margaret Peckover* of the ſame Town, three yards and a quarter of Scotch-cloth, to the value of 5 s.

Taken from *Joan Watſon* the Curtains from off her Bed, to the value of 3 s. her Husband being in Priſon at the ſame time.

Taken from *Fran. Larders* for his Wife, a Flagon, to the value of 1 s. 6 d.

In the 5th month following taken more upon the ſame account.

From *William Monk*, a Covering off his Bed, to the value of 6 s.

Taken from *Margaret Peckover* Goods to the value of 6 s. 6 d.

Taken from *Anne Harriſon*, a Form and a Smoothing-Iron, to the value of 5 s.

In the 6th moneth taken more from *William Monk*, two Holland Payles, a pair of And irons and a Pewter Pot, to the value of 6 s.

Taken from *Margaret Peckover*, a piece of fine Vermillion, to the value of 7 s.

In the ſame moneth they took more from her, a quantity of Vermillion, to the value of 7 s. 6 d.

In the 7th moneth, taken more from *Margaret Peckover*, Caligo Lawn, to the value of 6 s.

Taken more from the ſaid *William Monk*, being an Aged Man, ſix Pewter Diſhes, to the value of 10 s.

In the 8th moneth, the ſaid *William Monk* and his Wife, ſhe being alſo an Aged Woman, had their *Mittimus* made to ſend them to Priſon, by *Henry Clifton* a Juſtice (ſo called) but falling both ſick, *Margaret Peckover* their Daughter took them home to her Houſe before they went to Priſon; but no ſooner were they made able to ſtir abroad, but the ſaid *Clifton* ſent to the Conſtable, threatning to ſend him to Priſon if he did not ſpeedily carry the two Aged Perſons away to Priſon, which accordingly

cordingly the Officers did; and they both Dyed Priſoners in a little above a quarter of a year, finiſhing their Teſtimony for the Everlaſting Truth.

[Note, *The ſaid* Hen. Clifton, *that committed them to Priſon, lived not long after, but Dyed a Sad and Lamentable Death, as its very well known.*]

Further, *Margaret Peckover* aforeſaid had taken from her upon the ſame account, a quantity of Scotch-cloth, to the value of 6s. 6d. her Husband being then in Priſon.

Anne Harriſon had taken from her, a Pewter Diſh and a Kettle, to the value of 4s.

Thomas Watſon having been a Priſoner a long time, coming home to ſee his Wife and ſmall Children, they took away his Coat for his Wife's abſenting from their Worſhip.

Sarah Pond had taken from her a Chair-Table upon the account aforeſaid.

Alice Williamſon had taken from her the Covering of her Bed, to the value of 4s.

[Note, William Hemſteely *and others they carryed to Priſon becauſe they could not take a Diſtreſs of them.*]

In the ſame year (68.) *Henry Gibbs*, *William Waſy* and *Richard Fideman* being at *Joſeph Harriſon's* Houſe, there came *Richard Jeſſup* and *Robert Shildrake* Churchwardens (ſo called) and *Tho. Whidby* Conſtable, and pulled them out of his Houſe, and carryed them in a Cart before *Chriſtopher Calthorp* (called a Juſtice) who dwelt near the Town of *Fakenham*, who required them to find Sureties for their good Behaviour, they refuſing (not being guilty of the Breach thereof) he committed them to Priſon.

In the year (69.) *Hen. Gibbs*, *William Waſey*, *John Wade*, *Robert Peartree*, *Hugh Sheltram*, *Robert Southgate*, *Richard Rouſe* and *Nicholas Witeman*, being met together with others at the Houſe of *Joſeph Harriſon* in *Fakenham*, they were ſtayed by the Conſtables until the aforeſaid *Chriſtopher Calthorp* came to them (with ſeveral diſorderly people following of him) and he committed the aboveſaid Perſons to Priſon.

A further Accompt of ſome of the Sufferings of the People of God called *Quakers* in and about *Fakenham* in *Norfolk*, with the Names of ſome of thoſe Juſtices, Informers, Conſtables and other Officers concerned therein, being chiefly for meeting together to wait upon and worſhip the living God, and becauſe of their Diſſent from the Publick Worſhip, or Church (ſo called.)

Joſeph Harriſon of *Fakenham* was fined 5 l. for a Meeting at his Houſe, about the 29th of the 3d moneth, 1670. and had taken from him about the 2d of the 5th moneth following, by the Officers of the ſaid Town, *William Watt* being Informer, two Feather Beds, two Feather Boulſters, one Flight Boulſter, a Rugg, Curtains, Vallans, Curtain-Rods, two Bed Blankets and a pair of Sheets, four Darnick Stools, two Darnick Chairs, three great Green Chairs and a Bed-cord, all worth 7 l.

Robert Southgate of *Twyford* was fined 5 l. for the ſame Meeting at *Joſeph Harriſon's*, the 29th of the 3d moneth, 1670. and had theſe Goods taken from him, *viz.* One Side of Beef, one Bullock's Hide, a Side of Mutton, and ſeveral other Joynts of Mutton, certain Swine, two Cupboards, and other Goods, valued at 5 l. 15 s.

John Wade was fined 20 l. for a Meeting at his Houſe in *Twyford* the 5th of the 4th moneth, 1670. and had taken from him by Warrant from Doctor *Herbert Aſhly* (called a Juſtice) as followeth:

Two Horſes, a Cart, a Plough, and other Husbandry Goods, a Bedſtead, ſeveral Chairs, and other valuable Houſhold Goods, to the value of 24 l. 13 s.

Joſeph

Joſeph Harriſon was fined 5 s. for being at the ſame Meeting, and had taken from him a Braſs Pot and a Warming-pan, worth 10 s.

Robert Southgate was fined 5 s. for being at the ſame Meeting, and ſoon after had taken from him (by *Edward Winter* and *John Banes*, by Warrant from the aforeſaid *Herbert Aſhly*) one Bullock's Hide, a Neat's Tongue and a Cheek, worth 8 s.

Robert Southgate was fined more by the ſaid Juſtice, 9 l. 13 s. 2 d. for the Houſe.

He was fined 10 s. more (for the ſecond Offence, ſo called) for being at a Meeting at *John Wade*'s aforeſaid, upon the 26th of the 4th moneth, 1670. by the ſaid Juſtice.

He was alſo fined for the ſaid Meeting 9 l. 10 s. more for the Houſe by the ſaid Juſtice (ſo called) and about the 28th of the ſame moneth *Edward Winter* and *John Browne*, Conſtables of *Bintree* and *Twyford*, came into the ſaid *Robert*'s Houſe to ſtrain for the laſt three Fines, being all expreſſed in one Warrant, and they took from him four Cows, one Calf, one Cart, one Bed as it ſtood, one Feather Bed more, one Rugg, with all the Furniture belonging to the Bed, except the Bedſtead, four Braſs Kettles, one Braſs Morter, ſeveral great Pewter Diſhes, one Framed Table, one Chair Table, with ſeveral other Houſhold Goods. worth 30 l.

Joſeph Harriſon was fined 15 s. for himſelf and his Wife, for being at the ſame Meeting, by Warrant from the ſaid Dr. *Aſhly*, and had taken from him a Horſe, with Bridle and Saddle, Pillion and Pillion-cloth and Foot-ſtool, as they came riding, worth 4 l. 10 s.

He was fined 3 l. 1 s. 4 d. ob. more, for a part of *John Wade*'s Fine for the Houſe, for the ſaid Meeting, and had taken from him one Horſe, three Pewter Diſhes, two Porrigers, a Tankard, a Candleſtick, a Braſs Pot, a Braſs Kettle, a Skimmer, a Caſting Ladle and a Form, all worth 4 l.

Edmund Peckover of *Fakenham* was fined 5 s. for his Wife's being at the aforeſaid Meeting, and had taken from him in Money 5 s.

There

There being a Meeting at the Houſe of *Joſeph Harriſon* in *Fakenham*, the 2d of the 5th moneth, 1670. and *Samuel Cater* being there, and declaring the Truth to the people preſent, *William Watt* his Wife came, and after ſome time went to inform the Officers thereof, who came and had Friends before *Chriſtopher Calthorp* (a Juſtice) who asked her, tendring her the Oath, *To ſpeak the Truth, and nothing but the Truth of what ſhe ſaw and heard*; asking her, *If ſhe was in the Room where the Meeting was?* She ſaid, *No, but was at the Door.* He asked, *Why ſhe went not in?* She ſaid, *The Room was ſo full ſhe could not get in.* The ſaid Juſtice ask't her, *What* Samuel *ſaid in the Meeting?* and ſhe told him Words that *Samuel* did not ſpeak; *Samuel* appealed to the Officers that heard him, who ſaid, *The Woman Lyed, and they were not his Words*: then *Samuel* appealed to the Juſtice to do us right, there being no Cauſe he ſhould convict us by her Teſtimony; and ſhe, for her own Ends, to accompliſh her Ungodly Deſires, ſpake that which was not true, as it did appear to him: The Juſtice anſwered, *He did not believe all was true ſhe ſaid; but he did believe that he Preached at* Joſeph Harriſon's *Houſe, and for that he would fine* Samuel *Twenty Pounds:* which accordingly he did, and ſent the Records of Conviction to the Magiſtrates at *Elye*, who ſent out their Warrants, and took away his Goods.

Joſeph Harriſon was fined 5 l. for the ſaid Meeting being at his Houſe, and had taken from him by Warrant from the ſaid *Chriſtopher Calthorp* & one —— *Brightus* Juſtices (ſo called) two Bedſteads, a Teſter, five Chairs, two Cheſts, one Pewter Caſe, two Tables, one Bed-cord, one Glaſs-Caſe, one Cow, four little Hoggs and one Sow; all worth 6 l. 10 s.

Mary Johnſon was fined 5 l. for part of *Joſeph Harriſon*'s fine for the ſaid Meeting being at his Houſe, and had Goods taken away from her to the value of 7 l.

Edmund Peckover aforeſaid was fined 15 s. for his Wife's being at two Meetings at *Joſeph Harriſon*'s and one at *Thurning*, and had taken away in Money 15 s.

Joſeph Harriſon was fined 20 s. for himſelf and his Wife being

ing at a Meeting at *Thurning* the 30 day of the 5th moneth, 1670. for which the Officers of *Fakenham*, by warrant from Sr. *Jacob Aſhly* (ſo called) took away his Horſe, worth 4 l. 10 s.

Edmund Peckover was fined 10 s. for his Wife, by a Warrant from the ſaid *Jacob Aſhly* Knight and Juſtice (ſo called) upon the Information of two Informers *Richmond* and *Lynes*, who informed the ſaid Juſtice of a Meeting that was (they ſaid) in the Road-way to *Thurning*, where there were but Four Friends talking together, and theſe two Informers coming paſt them, eſpyed a Stranger at ſome diſtance (not one of our Friends) and ſaid, *Now they would Swear it a Meeting*, and did ſo; and upon the 1ſt of the 10th moneth, 1670. *Rich. Collins* Warden, *Roger Henry* Conſtable and *John Wortely* came to the ſaid *Edmund* his Shop, and for the ſaid Fine took out of his Money-Box 10 s.

Joſeph Harriſon being fined for the ſame pretended Meeting, the Officers the ſame day went to his Stall in *Fakenham* Market, and took from him forty two pound of Beef, worth 7 s.

Joſeph Harriſon being fined for a Meeting at *Twyford*, had taken from him upon the 5th of the 11th moneth, 1670. a fat Sheep, worth 10 s.

Joſeph Harriſon being fined 5 l. for a Meeting at his Houſe upon the 15th of the 9th moneth, 1670. by a Warrant from *Nathaniel Shouldham* and *Chriſtopher Calthorp* (called Juſtices) and had taken from him by the Officers of *Fakenham*, who came to his Houſe the 2d of the 1ſt moneth following, and took from him half a Bullock, worth 2 l. 10 s. The 9th of the ſame moneth they came again, and took for the ſaid Fine the value of three Quarters of Beef and four Quarters of Mutton, worth 2 l. 5 s. Again, they took as much Tallow as came to 17 s.

Edmund Peckover was fined 10 s. for being at the ſaid Meeting at *Joſeph Harriſon's*, the 15th of the 9th moneth, and had taken from him upon the 18th of the 11th moneth following, ſeven yards and three quarters of Linnen Cloth to the value of 14 s.

The 17th of the 6th moneth, 1671. the Informer *William Watt*,

Watt, with the Officers *Henry Gogney* and *John Cook* Wardens, and *Roger Henry* a Conſtable, went towards another Town where *Joſeph Harriſon* uſed a Paſture-Cloaſe, the Informer went in (as it was ſaid) and took out two fat Bullocks, which were worth 6 l. 10 s. And for this they ſaid, they had a Warrant from the aforeſaid *Nathaniel Shouldham* and *Chriſtopher Colthorp*, for a Fine of 10 l. for a Meeting that was at his Houſe upon the 3d of the 3d moneth, 1671. And upon the 6th of the 7th moneth next, the ſame Officers came again to *Joſeph Harriſon*'s for the remainder of the aforeſaid fine, as they ſaid, and took from him three Bullocks, which coſt him 10 l. 10 s. not offering him any Over-plus thereof.

Edmund Peckover was fined 10 s. for his Wife being at the ſame Meeting at *Joſeph Harriſon*'s, and upon the 18th of the 6th moneth, 1671. *Henry Gogney* Warden and *Roger Henry* Conſtable, came to *Edmund*'s Shop with a Warrant to levy the ſaid Fine, and took from him a piece of Green Say of twenty yards and a half, worth 1 l. 15 s.

The 10th of the 5th moneth, 1674. at a Meeting at the Houſe of *Joſeph Harriſon* in *Fakenham*, there came *William Watt* the Informer, with the Officers of *Fakenham*, *Nich. Hill*, *Chriſt. Overton*, *Rob. Cooper* and *Covenant Hemſteely*, who ſtood till the Meeting was done, and then demanded Friends Names, who demanded to ſee their Warrant, but they ſhewed none; they took ſome Friends Names, and went away.

The 19th of the ſame moneth came the ſaid *William Watt* and ſome of the aforeſaid Officers, viz. *Hill*, *Overton* and *Cooper*, and took the Names of ſeveral Friends, and the reſt they took and impriſoned till the next day, being between forty and fifty in number, and had them before him called Sr. *Chriſtopher Colthorp*, who took their Names and diſmiſſed and fined them, as after followeth.

The twenty ſixth of the ſame moneth, Friends being peaceably met to wait upon the Lord at *Joſeph Harriſon* his Houſe, the Officers came into the Meeting, and when the

the Meeting was done, took Friends Names and went away.

For these three Meetings was made great Havock and Spoil of several Friends Goods, as followeth:

The 28th of the 6th moneth, 1674. the Officers of *Fakenham*, viz. *Nich. Hill* Constable, *Christ. Overton* Overseer, and *John Read* an Informer, went early in the morning (as it was said) to a piece of Land of the Widow *Hemsteely*'s, by a Warrant from Sr. *Christopher Calthorp* (so called) and took thirty five Sheep, to the value of above 10 l. for Fines, which were imposed on her Son *William Hemsteely*, for a Meeting at *Joseph Harrison*'s the 19th of the 5th moneth (74.) *viz.* 5 l. 5 s. for *Joseph Harrison*, 5 s. for himself, 5 s. for the Widow *Mayes*, 5 s. for her Daughter, and 5 s. for the Wife of *John Bee*; in all 6 l. 5 s.

[Note, William's *Mother, whose the Sheep were, was not one called a* Quaker, *nor was at the Meeting.*]

The same day the Officers, viz. *Hill*, *Overton*, *Cooper* and *Humphry Moore*, went to *Edmund Peckover*'s Shop in *Fakenham* with a Warrant to levy 10 l. *viz.* 5 s. for himself, 5 s. for his Wife, and 9 l. 10 s. for *Joseph Harrison* part of the fine for his House, and took these Goods following; Five yards of milled Searge, thirty yards of *French* Druggits, and fifty two yards of the best Prunella. The next day they came again, and took twenty four yards and three quarters of Druggits, twenty yards and three quarters of Sattin, sixteen yards of black Prunella, twenty four yards of Ozenbridge. The 31th day of the aforesaid moneth they came again, and took eight yards of Stuff, and ten yards and half an ell of Searge; in all worth 18 l.

The aforesaid 28th day they went to a poor man's House, one *William Bullard*, and for a fine of 5 s. for his Wife's being at the same Meeting, they took his Coal-grate, his Kettle (having not another to boyl their Victuals in) and two Pewter Dishes, all worth 10 s. 4 d.

The 29th day of the said moneth the same Officers, *Hill* and *Overton*, went to the House of *Francis Larder*, where there

was no Body but a Child of about six or seven years of Age, himself not being one called a *Quaker*, and for a fine of 5 s. for his Wife's being at one of the aforesaid Meetings, they took a Rugg, a Blanket and a Feather Boulster; all worth 15 s.

The same 28th day of the 6th moneth, the said Officers of *Eakenham* went to the House of *Thomas Watson*, a very poor man, having a Wife and Five small Children, and nothing but his Labour to maintain them, he having suffered long and tedious Imprisonment upon the account of Truth; they said they had a Warrant to strain for 10 s. *viz.* 5 s. for himself, and 5 s. for his Wife, for being at one of the aforesaid Meetings; they looked about, and went away, and told the Magistrate (as it is said) *That there was little in his House to take, but the Bed they lay upon*; he bid them, *Take his Bed*: so the next day they took their Feather Bed and a Blanket worth 12 s. and left them none to lie on, so they lay upon Straw. And the 2d of the 7th moneth they came again, saying, *They had not enough*; so they took their Coal-Grate and their Kettle, in which they boiled their Food, worth 4 s.

The 31th of the said 6th moneth, the Officers went and brought away from *Joseph Harrison* a fat Bullock and five Sheep, and shut them up in a House at *Nich. Hill*'s; when *Joseph* heard of it, he went and demanded of them, *Wherefore they did it?* who told him, *They had a Warrant from Sr.* Christ. Calthorp *for a fine of* 5 l. 5 s. *for a Meeting being at his House upon the* 19th *day of* July (74.) the Bullock and five Sheep worth 5 l. The 3d day of the 7th moneth they came again, and said, *They wanted* 23 s. *of the fine*; and took fourteen stone and twelve pound of Beef off his Stall in the Market, worth 1 l. 12 s. fourteen pound to the stone.

The 9th day of the 7th moneth (74.) the Officers of *Hortingtash*, *viz.* *Robert Reeve* and *William Franklin* Over-seers, and *Tho. Reeve* Warden, went to *Francis Hill*'s (he being then in Prison upon an Affize Process) and told his Wife, *They had a Warrant from Sr.* Christ. Calthorp, *to strain for* 10 s. *viz.* 5 s. *for her Husband, and* 5 s. *for her self, for being at a Meeting at*

Joseph

Joſeph Harriſon's of Fakenham *upon the 19th of* July (74.) they asked her, *If ſhe would Conſent they ſhould take* 10 s. *of the* 20 s. *that was left as an Overplus of her Cows?* for they had taken two Cows from them in the 3d moneth fore-going for his and his Wife's abſenting from the Steeple-houſe twenty ſix Weeks before, though they never demanded it in all that time, ſo they counted it came to 52 s. and ſold the Cows, and would have returned 20 s. or ſometing more, but he would not receive it; ſhe told them, *She had done no Wrong, neither would ſhe conſent to their doings*; ſo they took a Mare from her, worth above 2 l.

The 14th of the 7th moneth (74.) ſome Officers of *Burningham* went to *Peter Wynne* with a Warrant from *Chriſtopher Calthorp*, to levy a Fine of 5 s. for being at one of the aforeſaid Meetings at *Joſeph Harriſon's*, he being a very poor man, his Wife lately dead, and he left with Nine Children, Seven of them ſmall, and in a very poor Condition; they took from him a pair of Dog-irons, a Cicle, a Spit, and the Kettle he had to boyl their Victuals in, the value of them about 8 s.

The ſame day the Officers of *Burningham* aforeſaid went to *Robert Barwick's* of the ſame Town to levy for a fine of 5 s. for being at the ſaid Meeting at *Joſeph Harriſon's*, and took from him a Kettle and a Pot, valued above 12 s.

The ſame moneth the Officers of *Twyford*, viz. *Tho. Everet* Over-ſeer and *George Preſs* Warden, came to *Robert Southgate* with a Warrant from *Chriſtopher Calthorp*, to levy a Fine of 10 s. for himſelf and Wife being at a Meeting at *Joſeph Harriſon's* the 19th of the 5th moneth (74.) for which they took a Hide worth 10 s. and as much Beef as was worth 2 s. in all 12 s.

The 16th day of the 7th moneth (74.) the Officers of *Fakenham*, viz. *Nich. Hill*, *Chr. Overton* and *Robert Cooper*, went to *Joſeph Harriſon's* with two Warrants from *Chr. Crow* (a Juſtice, ſo called) to levy for two Meetings at his Houſe, one upon the tenth of the fifth moneth (1674.) and the other upon the twenty ſixth of the ſame moneth, five pounds for the one, and four pounds fifteen ſhillings for the other; they went

into his Orchard, and took three fat Bullocks, worth Nine Pounds.

About the same time the Officers of *Fakenham* took away from the Widow *Hemsteely* four Cows and two Bullocks, they said, for fines imposed on her Son *William*, viz. 5 l. 10 s. for the House, 20 s. for *Tho. Watson* and his Wife, and 10 s. for himself being at one of the aboveſaid Meetings.

The 23d of the same moneth, *Hill* and *Overton* went to *Joseph Harrison*'s House again, and took away another fat Bullock for the fines aforesaid, worth 3 l. 5 s.

About the same time the said *Hill* and *Overton* with *Robert Cooper* and *Humphry Moore* went to *Edmund Peckover*'s Shop with two Warrants, as they said, to strain for the King; but *Hill* refused to produce his Warrant for a time, though required by *Edmund*'s Wife; but by *Robert Cooper*'s perswasion they were read; and they were for 16 l. 5 s. for the said two Meetings, *viz.* 2 l. for himself and his Wife, and 15 s. for their Son *Joseph*, for two Meetings, 5 s. for their Daughter *Rebeccah*, and 5 s. for their Maid *Martha Phillips* for one Meeting, and 13 l. for *Joseph Harrison*, *viz.* 8 l. for one Meeting, and 5 l. for another, being parts of the 20 l. fines for the House, for which they took as follows; Seven yards one quarter of Searge, twenty two yards more of Searge, sixteen yards one half more of Searge, seven yards three quarters of Searge, eight yards of Searge, ten yards of Searge, eight yards one half of Silk Farrendine, ten yards one half of Stuff, four yards of Stuff, three yards three quarters more of Searge, seventeen yards one half of Searge and five yards of Say, worth above 17 l.

Soon after the aforesaid Officers, *Hill* and *Overton*, came again to *Edmund Peckover*'s House, and *Hill* took down six large Pewter Plates, cost 2 s. 6 d. apiece, and nine Pewter Dishes, and a Porringer, and gave them to *Overton* to carry away, and denyed to let them be weighed, but Reviled *Edmund*'s Wife very much for requiring it; and because their Son *Joseph Peckover* would have had them weighed, *Hill* took him and buffeted him, and dragg'd him to the Stocks, and put him in for a time; and

and they took more Goods, as much Stuff as came to Ten Pounds.

The next Night, *Hill*, *Overton* and *Moore* came again to *Edmund Peckover*'s Shop, and ſaid, *They wanted* 30 s. *ſtill*; ſo took fifty two yards of *Ozenbridge* and a piece of Stuff, both worth 2 l. 10 s. ſo that for the fine of 16 l. 15 s. they took Goods to the value of above 30 l.

The 19th of the 6th moneth, 1674. the Officers of *Horningtaſt* came to *Francis Hill*'s Wife, with two Warrants from Juſtice *Crow* (ſo called) to ſtrain for her Husband and her ſelf being at the two Meetings at *Joſeph Harriſon*'s aforeſaid, one the 10th, and the other upon the 26th day of the 5th moneth aforeſaid, 40 s. for her Husband and her ſelf, 5 s. for *Theodora Todd*, and 5 l. for *Joſeph Harriſon* (for the Houſe) and they took away five Mileh Cows, worth about 12 l.

[Note *That* Francis *his Wife was but at one of the Meetings, yet* Nicholas Hill *and* Chr. Overton *ſwore ſhe was at both.*]

The 25th of the 7th moneth, 1674. the Officers of *Coltreak* went to the Houſe of *William Woode* to ſtrain for 15 s. for his Wife's being at two Meetings at *Joſeph Harriſon*'s, and they took a Feather Bed and a Feather Pillow, a Bed-blanket, a pair of Sheets, a Braſs Pot and a Kettle, worth above 1 l. 5 s.

[Note, *The man was not one called a* Quaker.]

The 30th of the 8th moneth, (74.) the Officers of *Swantonovers* went to *Robert Southgate*'s to levy 3 l. 10 s. *viz.* for himſelf 10 s. for young *Anne Harriſon* and the Widow *May* 15 s. for *Anne Bee* 10 s. and for *Joſeph Harriſon* 1 l. 15 s. and the ſaid Officers, viz. *James Naylor* and *Tobias Haſting* Conſtables, *Richard Morrice* Over-ſeer, *Robert Goddard* the younger and *Iſaac Wale* Wardens; *Nayler* and *Goddard* with a great Trove Hammer, brake up a Door that was locked, and took away a fat Swine, worth 1 l. Soon after they came again to make up their fine, and brake up a Chamber Door, which they did with that Violence, that they brake his Iron Butchering-Ax and ſome

other

other things with doing it, and then took away two Feather Pillows, with a Pillow Case, a new Blanket and a Bullock's Hide, all worth 17 s.

[Note, *There was a Bed and Bolster, and other things, taken away from* Robert *at the same time, which a Neighbour of his would buy of the Officers, and return again to* Robert.]

The 30th of the 8th moneth, the Officers of *Fakenham* went to *Anne Bee* for 10 s. for being at the said two Meetings at *Joseph Harrison*'s (she was fined 20 s. but they got 10 s. of it of *Robert Southgate* aforesaid) and they took from her a Cupboard-Table, a Kettle, and a Feather Pillow. And upon the 5th of the 2d moneth (75.) they went to her again to make up the fine, and took an Iron Pot with the Hooks, and her Hat, in all worth 14 s.

The 20th day of the 7th moneth (74.) Friends being peaceably met to wait upon God at the House of *Joseph Harrison* in *Fakenham*, *William Watt* and *Nich. Hill* Informers, *Humphry Moore* a Constable, and *Chr. Overton* Overseer, came in and staid some time, and took the Names of several Friends; and the said Informers went to one *Robert Walpoole* a Justice (so called) and swore they heard *Joseph Harrison* say, *They were met to Worship God, and they could do no otherwise*; the Magistrate told *Joseph* the Informers said so, though there was not one word spoke to them; whereupon he gave them a Warrant, wherein he fined *Joseph Harrison* 10 l. and *Edmund Peckover* 10 l. viz. 20 s. for him and his Wife, 10 s. for their Son *Joseph*, 10 s. for their Daughter *Rebeckah*, 10 s. for their Maid *Martha Phillips*, and 7 l. 10 s. for *Joseph Harrison*, and some others were fined by him for that Meeting.

So upon the 14th day of the 8th moneth (74.) the Officers of *Fakenham*, *John Bately* and *William Sudbury* Constables, and *Chr. Overton* Over-seer, went to *Joseph Harrison*'s with the aforesaid Warrant to levy the said 10 l. and they took two fat Bullocks, worth 6 l.

The 28th of the said moneth, the said Officers took from the said

ſaid *Joſeph*, by the ſaid Warrant, his Cow, he having no more to ſuccour his Children withal, worth 2 l. 10 s.

The 10th of the 10th moneth (74.) they went to *Joſeph Harriſon*'s Stall in the Market in *Fakenham*, and told him, *They had not their Fine up yet*; ſo they took a Side of Beef, weighed 12. Stone and nine Pound (fourteen pound to the ſtone) worth 1 l. 10 s.

The 14th of the ſame moneth ſome of them came again to his Stall in the Market, and told him, *They wanted about* 20 s. *ſtill of the Fine*; ſo they took from him ten ſtone ſeven pound of Beef (fourteen pound to the ſtone) worth 1 l. 4 s.

The 17th of the 8th moneth (74.) the Officers of *Fakenham*, viz. *Fran. Page* and *Covenant Hempſteely* Wardens, *Chr. Overton* and *Will. Supponſe* Over-ſeers, *John Cooke*, *Will. Sudbury* and *John Bately* Conſtables, went to *Edmund Peckover*'s Shop, and ſaid, *They came to levy* 10 l. *by the ſaid Warrant from Juſtice* Walpoole, *for the ſaid Meeting the 20th of the ſeventh moneth*; and they took as followeth, Forty four yards and one half of Holland, ten yards one quarter of Stript Linnen, four yards one half of full Searge, nineteen yards of red Semperternum, fifteen yards one half of Searge, ſix yards one quarter of Full'd Searge, four yards three quarters more of Searge; all worth 8 l.

Some time in the 10th moneth following, ſome of the ſaid Officers went to *Edmund*'s Shop again, and found a Purſe with Money, and told out 5 l. in the Abſence of *Edmund* and his Wife, which they carryed away, 5 l.

The 15th of the 10th moneth (74.) the Officers of *Walſingham* went to *Nathaniel Urines* of the ſame Town with two Warrants, one from the ſaid Juſtice *Walpoole* for 10 s. and one from Juſtice *Crow* aforeſaid for 40 s. for a Meeting at *Joſeph Harriſon*'s in the 5th moneth foregoing; and they took from him a Mare, worth 3 l.

About the ſame time the Officers of *Swanton-overs*, viz. *Will. Girling* and *Jacob Webſter* Conſtables, *Richard Morrice* and *Iſaac Wale* Overſeers, and *Robert Goddard* Warden, went to *Robert Southgate*'s with a Warrant from the ſaid Juſtice *Walpoole* to ſtrain for 7 l. *viz.* for himſelf and his Wife 20 s. for *Thomas Watſon* and his Wife 20 s. for young *Anne Harriſon* 10 s.

for

for *Anne Bee* 10 s. for *Mary May* 10 s. for *Theodora Todd* 10 s. for *Elizabeth Todd* 10 s. and for *Joseph Harrison* 50 s. and they took from him two Cows, a Mare, a Saddle and Bridle, all worth 7 l. 10 s.

Here follows a Copy of part of a Warrant, granted by Juſtice Bedingfield *(ſo called) of* Wighton *near* Walſingham, *upon the Information of* William Watt, *the old Informer, and his Son in Law* Henry Nichols.

Norfolk, WHereas upon the Information of *William Watt*, of the Pariſh of St. *Peters* in the City of *Norwich*, Sadler, and *Henry Nichols* of *Fakenham* in the County aforeſaid, taken upon Oath before me *Chriſtopher Bedingfield* Eſq. one of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace for this County, That on *Sunday* the 26th of *November* laſt paſt, divers Perſons, whoſe Names are hereunder written, to the Number of above five, all his Majeſty's Subjects, and above the Age of ſixteen years, were preſent at an Unlawful Aſſembly, Conventicle or Meeting, under Colour or Pretence of Religion, in other manner than according to the *Liturgy* of the *Church of England*, in the Houſe of *Joſeph Harriſon* in the Pariſh of *Fakenham* above-ſaid, contrary to the Law in ſuch Caſe made and provided, &c.

* Note, *The 26th Day of* November *was the Day called* Thurſday.

This Warrant was dated the 8th day of *January* (ſo called) 1674. and therein were fined, *Joſeph Harriſon* for the Houſe 20 l. *Nathaniel Urine* 20 s. for himſelf and *Theodora Todd*, *Margaret*

Margaret the Wife of *Edmund Peckover* 10 s. *Mary* the Wife of *Francis Larder* 10 s. *Roſe* the Wife of *Richard Cambridge* 10 s. beſides more in the ſaid Warrant expreſſed.

[Note, *Although the Information whereupon this Warrant was grounded was Falſe as to the Day mentioned, yet no Reaſon would prevail to ſtop their Cruel Proceedings, as appears.*]

For upon the 12th day of the ſame moneth, viz. the 11th moneth (74.) the Officers of *Walſingham* went to *Nathaniel Urine*'s, to levy his fine of 20 s. for being at the ſaid Meeting, and took as much Hoſe-yarn as came to 1 l. 8 s.

Not long after the Officers of *Walſingham*, viz. *Benjamin Rudkin* Over-ſeer, *Richard Winter* and *John Hill* Conſtables, went to *Joſeph Harriſon* at his Stall in *Walſingham* Market, with a Warrant from the ſaid Juſtice *Bedingfield*, to levy for the ſaid Meeting; he asked them to read it, and therein he was fined 20 l. for a Meeting at his Houſe on *Sunday* the 26th of *November* (74.) he told them, *He had no Meeting at his Houſe on that day; they might find in an* Almanack, *that the 26th of* November *was upon the Day called* Thurſday, *and ſo the Information was falſe; and he did believe, they ought not to ſtrain his Goods by a Warrant granted upon a Wrong Information*: then ſome of the Officers went to the Magiſtrate (they ſaid) he being then in Town, and told him of the matter, but he encouraged them to *execute the Warrant* (as they ſaid) *and he would juſtifie them in it*; ſome of them were loath to do it, knowing the Information to be Falſe; but *John Hill* ſaid, *Right or Wrong I'le take it*; ſo took all the Beef he had left, to the value of about 13 s. 6 d. The Warrant was made to ſtrain his Goods at *Fakenham*, at *Walſingham* and *Scoulthorp*; and *Watt* the Informer carried it from Town to Town where he had any Goods; then he brought it to *Fakenham* Officers, who knew the Information to be Falſe, ſome of them were loath to execute the Warrant, and forbare a while; but the Informer being troubled at it, went to the ſaid Juſtice that gave it forth, who altered the date of it, from the Twenty Sixth day to the Twenty Nineth day, and ſent it with

a Threatning Letter to the Officers of *Fakenham*, and forced them to levy for the 29th day, although he had cauſed *Walſingham* Officers to levy for the 26th day.

The 18th day of the 12th moneth, 1674. the Officers of *Fakenham*, viz. *Covenant Hempſteely*, *John Cook*, *William Sudbury* and *John Bately* went to *Joſeph Harriſon*'s Stall in the Market, with the Warrant to diſtrain his Beef, and they read it, and it was altered to the 29th day aforeſaid; *Joſeph* ſaid, *My Goods have been diſtrained at* Walſingham, *and ſo have* Nathaniel Urine's, *for the 26th day*; *and would you now ſtrain for the 29th day, and all by one Warrant?* and ſome of them appeared troubled, and ſaid, *It was not Right, but the Magiſtrate would force them to do it*; ſo they took five ſtone four pound of Beef, worth 12 s.

And *Watt* the Informer being troubled they proceeded no faſter, went and complained of the Officers to the Magiſtrate, who ſent forth a Threatning Letter to the Officers of *Fakenham*, whereupon they went to him, and found him much diſpleaſed with them, and ſaid, *He would not be trifled withal, but would have his Warrant executed*, or to that purpoſe. Whereupon

On the 5th day of the 1ſt moneth, 1675. the Officers of *Fakenham* went to *Joſeph Harriſon*'s Houſe, viz. *Fran. Page*, *Covenant Hempſteely*, *John Cooke* and others, and they took a Feather Bed and Bouſter, a Pillow and Caſe, and other Houſhold ſtuff, worth 3 l. then went into his Stable, and took his Horſe, worth 2 l. 10 s. and about twenty five hundred weight of Hay, worth 1 l. 15 s.

And upon the 22d of the 1ſt moneth, (75.) *Overton* and *Bately* took a Horſe and a Mare that were in *Joſeph Harriſon*'s Ground; the Horſe was his own, but the Mare was not, yet they ſold them both, notwithſtanding *Joſeph* told them, *The Mare was not his own*; ſhe was worth 3 l. and the Horſe was worth 20 s. in all 4 l.

The 1ſt day of the 2d moneth (75.) *Francis Page*, *John Cooke*, *John Bately*, *William Sudbury* and *Chriſtopher Overton*, went to *Joſeph*'s Stall in the Market, ſaying, *They were come*

again

again upon the old account; and they took ſix ſtone and two pound of Beef (fourteen pound to the ſtone) came to 16 s. 5 d.

The 8th day of the ſame moneth they came again to him in the Market, and took away four ſtone and five pound of Beef, 12 s.

The 15th of the ſame moneth moſt of the ſame Officers came again to *Joſeph*'s Stall in the Market, and took from him eight ſtone and eleaven pound of Beef, came to 1 l. 6 s. 9 d.

The 27th of the 3d moneth (75.) *Rice Guin* and *March Thorp* Wardens, *John Cooke* a Conſtable, and *Humphry Moore* an Over-ſeer, went to *Joſeph*'s Stall in the Market, and took from him five ſtone and five pound of Beef, worth 16 s.

The 10th of the 4th moneth (75.) *Guin*, *Cooke* and *Moore* went again to his Stall, and took away four ſtone and nine pound of Beef, worth 13 s.

The 1ſt day of the 5th moneth (75.) *Guin*, *Thorp*, *Cooke* and *Bately* went again to his Stall, and took from him five ſtone and five pound of Beef, worth 15 s.

The 8th day of the ſame moneth the ſame Officers came again to *Joſeph*'s Stall in the Market, and took from him five ſtone and four pound of Beef, came to 15 s.

The 15th of the ſame moneth, *Thorp*, *Cooke*, *Bately* and *Sudbury* came again as he ſtood in his Stall, and took from him eleaven ſtone and five pound of Beef, worth 1 l. 10 s.

[Note, *Here are Goods taken away Twelve ſeveral times from one Perſon, for one Fine, grounded upon a wrong Information.*

Upon the 18th of the 12th moneth (74.) ſome of the Officers of *Fakenham* went to *Edmund Peckover*'s Shop, and ſaid, *Now the Warrant was altered, and they were come to ſtrain for the* 10 s. *fine*; they ſought for Money, but finding none but the Change-Box, they took out of it in ſmall change 4 s.

Upon the firſt day of the firſt moneth (75.) they went again to *Edmund*'s Shop, and took away 6 s. in Money to make up his Fine, 6 s.

And concerning *Mary* the Wife of *Francis Larder*, who was fined 10 s. in the ſaid Warrant by *Chriſtopher Bedingfield*, the Officers came to ſtrain for it; but ſeeing little left in the Houſe, except the Bed ſhe lay on, they went away, and reported the ſame to the ſaid Magiſtrate, who commanded the ſaid Officers to take her Bed from under her, though they told him, ſhe was more like to Dye than to Live; and ſhe did Dye the ſame Night, being the firſt day of the firſt moneth, 75. in the morning.

☞ Note, Mary Larder's *Husband was one that was not called a* Quaker; *yet, according to his wife's Deſire, he was willing ſhe ſhould be Buryed in Friends Burying-Ground, which was accordingly done: but the Savage Cruelty of ſome acted upon her Dead Body, ought not to be buryed in Oblivion; for upon the 5th day of the ſame moneth* Thomas Bretland's *Servant,* Richard Tendick *and one* Robert Bloome *pulled the Dead Corps out of the Grave (where it ought to have reſted) in an Inhuman Manner, breaking the Coffin, ſo as they were forced to tye it together, leſt the Corps ſhould fall out; and they brought it and ſet it in the* Market-place, *by* Edmund Peckover's *Door, to the great Amazement of many People, who were troubled at the ſight thereof, ſhe having been ſome dayes in the Ground. This is an Action which would be deteſted of the ſober* Heathens: *How great a Shame then is it, to ſee and hear of ſuch* Barbarity *amongſt thoſe that would be called* CHRISTIANS! *though how far they are from the* Nature of Chriſtianity, *that are the Actors of ſuch* Tragedies *as theſe, is apparent to all True* Chriſtians.

The

The 12th day of the 7th moneth (75) Friends being peaceably met at the Houſe of *Joſeph Harriſon*, *William Watt*'s Wife came to the Door, and ſtay'd a while looking upon Friends, and went away; ſo *Watt* and his Wife went to *Chriſtopher Crow* of *Eaſt-Bilney*, a Juſtice (ſo called) and ſwore it a Meeting, and he granted out his Warrant, and fined as followeth; *Joſeph Harriſon* for the Houſe 9 l. *Fran. Hill* 10 s. for himſelf, and 5 s. for *Sarah Hill*, and 6 l. for the Houſe; *Nathaniel Urine* 10 s. for himſelf, 10 s. for *Mary Mayes*, 5 s. for *Mary Turner*, and 5 l. for the Houſe of *Joſeph Harriſon*: *Edmund Peckover* for his Wife 10 s. *Joſeph Peckover* 10 s. for himſelf, and 10 s. for his Siſter *Rebeckah*; *Roſe Cambridge* Widow 10 s. and *Thomas Watſon* and his Wife 20 s.

So on the 25th day of the 7th moneth (75.) the Officers of *Horningtaſt*, viz. *Thomas Reeve* Warden and Over-ſeer, with ſeveral others, went to *Fran. Hill*'s to levy his Fine of 6 l. 15 s. and took from him twenty one yards of Cloth, two Horſes, and another parcel of Cloth, in all worth 7 l. 15 s. and in Money 2 l. 9 s. 6 d. in all 10 l. 4 s. 6 d.

The 28th of the 7th moneth, 1675. the Officers of *Fakenham*, viz. *Rice Gwin* and *March Thorp* Wardens, *Robert Thompſon* and *Hugh Farret* Conſtables, and *Humphry Moore* Over-ſeer, went to *Edmund Peckover*'s Shop to levy his fine of 10 s. for his Wife's being at the ſaid Meeting at *Joſeph Harriſon*'s, and they took from him nine yards of Ell-wide Green Say, worth above 20 s.

Upon the ſame day the ſaid Officers went to the Widow *Cambridge* her Houſe, to levy her fine of 10 s. for being at the ſaid Meeting, and they took from her three Braſs Kettles and five Pewter Diſhes, worth 18 s.

[Note, *Upon the ſame day they went to* Tho. Watſon *to levy his Fine of* 20 s. *but he had been ſo pillaged before, that there was little worth the taking; he, his Wife and Children were forced to lie upon Straw, ſo little Mercy found they amongſt their Neighbours.*

The

The 19th of the 8th moneth (75.) the Officers of *Walſingham*, viz. *John Pattington* a Warden, *William Hawn* and *Rob. Feltwell* Conſtables went to *Nath. Urine*'s Shop with a Warrant from Juſtice *Crow* aforeſaid, to levy his fine of 6 l. 5 s. for himſelf and others being at the ſaid Meeting, and they took from him thirteen pound and one half of Hoſe-Yarn, worth above 1 l.

The 18th of the 10th moneth (75.) the ſaid Officers went again to *Nathaniel Urine*'s Shop, and took from him Waſtcoats, Tobacco, Pipes, Boxes and Writing Paper, as much as was worth 4 l. 10 s.

The 18th of the firſt moneth (76.) the Officers of *Walſingham* aforeſaid, went to the ſaid *Nathaniel*'s Shop again to make up his fine, and they took from him his Mare, all that he had left; ſhe was well worth 2 l.

The 29th of the 8th moneth, 75. the Officers of *Fakenham*, viz. *Rice Guin* and *March Thorp* Wardens, *Rob. Thompſon* and *Hugh Jarret* Conſtables, and *Humphry Moore* Over-ſeer, went to *Joſeph Harriſon*'s Shop to levy his fine for the ſaid Meeting, and they took three Tallow-Loaves, came to 16 s.

The 4th of the 9th moneth (75.) the ſame Officers came again to his Stall in the Market, and took from him ſix ſtone and one pound of Beef, worth 12 s.

The 18th day of the ſame moneth the Officers came again to *Joſeph*'s Stall, and took away ſix ſtone and one pound of Beef, worth 12 s.

The 2d of the tenth moneth following the Officers came again to his Stall, and took away five ſtone and ſix pound of Beef, worth 11 s. 6 d.

The 9th of the ſame moneth they came again to his Stall, and took away from him eight ſtone and four pound of Beef, worth 18 s.

The 30th of the ſame moneth the Officers went again to *Joſeph Harriſon*'s Shop in the Evening, when it began to be dark, to ſtrain again; he asked them, *What! for the Old Warrant ſtill?* they ſaid, *For the Old and the New both*: ſo they took away a very

very fat Bullock, that was killed and hung up, and two Tallow-Loaves, all worth 3 l. 11 s.

The 6th of the 11th moneth they came again to his ſtall in the Market, and took from him five ſtone and an half of Beef, worth 12 s.

The 13th day of the ſame moneth they came again to his Stall, and took away ſeven ſtone and eleaven pound of Beef, worth 18 s.

The 3d day of the 12th moneth (75.) the ſaid Officers came to *Joſeph Harriſon*'s Stall again, and told him, *They were come for more Beef*; and they took from him ſix ſtone of Beef, worth 15 s.

The 9th of the ſame moneth, in the Evening, the ſaid Officers came again to his Shop to levy; for they ſaid, *They had not yet made up their Fines*: ſo he having a whole Bullock hung up in the Shop, *Humphry Moore* being himſelf a Butcher, clave it down, and his Boy brought his Beaſt and carryed it away; it was worth above 2 l. 10 s.

The tenth day of the ſaid twelfth moneth *March Thorp* came to *Joſeph Harriſon*, and told him, *He had caſt up the Bills of what they had taken for the two laſt Fines, and they had but about* 22 l. *yet*; although himſelf and *Rice Guin* had told him, when they came to levy upon the 30th of the 10th moneth foregoing, *That they had then* 22 l. *odd Money*; ſince which day they had taken two fat Bullocks, with three parcels of Beef, and two Tallow Loaves, and yet ſay they had but 22 l. or about 22 l. And indeed, its credibly reported, That ſome of the Officers buy of the Meat for a ſmall matter (if any thing) and whether they give any Account or not, we do not know. It is reported alſo, That ſome of them have ſate great part of ſeveral Nights Drinking with *Watt* the Informer. This is the Havock and Spoil they have made of Innocent People's Goods, for which they have laboured hard, and for which one day their Perſecutors muſt give an Account to God.

About the beginning of the 2d moneth (76.) *William Watt*, or

or his Wife, or both, went and informed Sr. *Chriſtopher Calthorp* (ſo called) of a Meeting at *Joſeph Harriſon*'s the 5th of the firſt moneth before; whereupon he iſſued out his Warrant to bring *Joſeph Harriſon*, *Margaret Peckover* and *Nathaniel Urine*, with ſome others, before him; and accordingly they did appear before him: and the ſaid *Watt* and his Wife did upon their Oaths depoſe, *That they ſtood in a certain Cloaſe* (which is about a quarter of a Furlong from *Joſeph*'s Gate) *and ſaw* Joſeph Harriſon, Nath. Urine *and a Woman come out of* Joſeph's *Gate, and go up towards the* Pownd (or Pinfold) *and ſaw* Fran. Hill *come out of the ſaid Gate, and go in again, and take his Horſe, and go up into the Town*; and further, *That he ſaw the Widow* Cambridge *and* Mary Mayes *come out of the Gate alſo.* Upon this Information the ſaid Magiſtrate fined *Joſeph Harriſon* 7 l. *Marg. Peckover* 10 s. *Joſeph Peckover* 10 s. *Rebeckah Peckover* 10 s. *Tho. Watſon* 10 s. *Mary May* 10 s. *Roſe Cambridge* 10 s. *Anne Bee* 10 s. *William Bullard* 10 s. *Nath. Urine* 7 l. and *Fran. Hill* 7 l.

[Note, *The Evidence and Proof given by the* Informers, *was only* (*to this effect*) That they ſaw certain Perſons come out of *Joſeph Harriſon*'s Gate, *upon which the ſaid Juſtice grounded his Warrant to levy for a* Meeting *in* Joſeph's *houſe. Surely this kind of proceeding is without Compariſon, and doth demonſtrate a great deal of Cruelty and Inhumanity, beyond either Law or Reaſon.*

So upon the 13th of the 2d moneth (76.) the Officers of *Walſingham*, viz. *Will. Leverington* Warden, *Tho. Capper* and *Tho. Cooper* Conſtables, went to *Nathaniel Urine*'s Shop with a Warrant from the ſaid *Chriſtopher Calthorp*, to levy the ſaid Fine of 7 l. and they took from him a Box of Tobacco, a Box of Pipes and a Stock-Lock, worth 12 s. 9 d.

The 27th of the 3d moneth (76.) the ſaid Officers with ſome others went to *Nathaniel Urine*'s Shop to levy again, and they took from him Hoſe-Yarn, Tobacco, Paper and other Goods, to the value of 3 l. 10 s.

About the 20th day of the 2d moneth (76.) the Officers of

Fa-

Fakenham, with *Watt* the Informer, went to *John Bee's*, to levy for his Wife's Fine, and took from him a Bedſtead, Curtains and Vallens, and other Bedding, worth 17 s.

The ſame day the ſaid Officers went to *Edmund Peckover's* Shop to ſtrain with two Warrants for 50 s. his Wife asked them, *For what?* and they ſaid, *For* 20 s. *for her Son* Joſeph *& her Daughter* Rebecca, *ordered by Juſtice* Crow, *and* 30 s *for her, and her Son* Joſeph, *and Daughter* Rebecca, *ordered by Juſtice* Calthorp; ſhe required to ſee their Warrants, which they ſeemed loath to do, but at laſt did ſhew it her, and *Chriſtopher Calthorp* had ordered them in his Warrant to take *Edm. Peckover's* Goods only for his Wife's Offence, and of *Joſeph* and *Rebecca's* own Goods for their Fines; but they ſaid, *It was all one, they would take the Father's Goods for their Fines:* and they took away thirty ſeven yards one half of Alking Holland; *Moorland* took it, and carryed it away by *Thompſon's* order; it was worth 3 l. 10 s.

The 4th of the 3d moneth (76.) the Officers of *Fakenham*, and *Watt* the Informer went to *Roſe Cambridge*, a poor Widow, to ſtrain for 10 s. and they took from her a Trunk with five Sheets in it, and a Napkin, the Covering off her Bed, a Blanket, a Table, two Chairs, and other things, in all worth 1 l. 5 s.

The ſame day the ſaid Officers went to *William Bullard's*, a poor man, having very little in his Houſe worth taking, only a Bedſtead, which was a good one, and by the ſaid Warrant for his 10 s. fine; they ſet *Watt* the Informer to take it down, with a good Teſter and Cord, and a Bed-board and Plank, worth 12 s.

The 11th of the 3d moneth (76.) *Tho. Moorland* Warden, *Rob. Doulton* and *Hugh Jarret* Conſtables, went to *Thomas Watſon's*, having five Children, and ſaid, *They were come to levy* 10 s. *by virtue of a Warrant from Sr.* Chr. Calthorp; but he being a very poor man they could not find any thing of value, ſo they went away; but in the afternoon the ſaid *Moorland, Jarret* and *Doulton* went to *Tho. Watſon's* Wife, as ſhe was in the Market; for ſhe baked a little Bread to ſell, to help to maintain her poor Children, and ſo Hard-hearted were they, that they took all the Bread ſhe had, being Nineteen Penny-worth.

The 15th of the ſame moneth they came again, and took from her Fourteen Penny-worth more, in both 2 s. 9 d.

The 2d day of the 4th moneth (76.) *William Watt* the Informer and his Wife went to *Walſingham* Market with a Warrant directed to the Officers of *Fakenham*, from *Chriſtopher Calthorp*, who had written a few words at the bottom of the Warrant to the Officers of *Walſingham* to levy *Joſeph Harriſon's* Meat at the Market; ſo *Tho. Capper* and *Thomas Cooper* Conſtables, and *Will. Framingham* Warden, went to *Joſeph Harriſon's* Stall in the Market, and told him, Will. Watt *had brought them a Warrant from Sr.* Chr. Calthorp, *to ſtrain his Meat*; he bid them read it, which they did; and he told them, *That was* Fakenham *Warrant; he did believe they need not take unleſs they would*; they ſaid, *Sr.* C. Calthorp *had ſent to them, and they muſt and would take*: ſo they took as much Beef and Lamb as came to 16 s.

Note.

It is obſervable, that this William Watt *the Informer, that has been ſo active in perſecuting his honeſt Neighbours, whereby they have been ſo ſpoiled, as is before related, the Lord laid an heavy Judgment upon his Body, whereby he was made a publick Example of the Anger and Diſpleaſure of God againſt this his Wicked and Ungodly Practice; for ſeveral Times when he has come to our Meetings, to inform againſt us, he has been ſo ſeized on, that he could not ſpeak of a long time; and when he has gone away, has been forced to ſtand ſtill ſeveral times in leſs than a Furlong going: It was obſerved, that his Illneſs ſeized moſt upon him when he was moſt buſie in this Work; which cauſed him and his Wife to ſay,* The Quakers bewitch't him: *he made ſuch ſtrange Noiſes many times when his Fit was upon him, that many were much affrighted with it, which cauſed many ſober people to ſay,* His Work of Informing was Bad, and he would come to a Bad End. *And about the 16th day of the 8th mon.* 1679. *he was ſtirring as he uſed to be about his Wicked Work, and at Night eat his Supper, as his Wife ſays, as well as ever he did, and after he had ſup't, ſuddenly fell down on the Floor, and his Daughter ſkreek't out, and he ſtared on her, it ſeems, and ſo died,*

very

very full of Vermine; and he had a nasty stinking Body by his Life time, and so he dyed; and it was very hard to get any Body to carry him to burying, only the Over-seers for the Poor hired four men to carry him. Note also, *That notwithstanding all the Money and Goods that he had gotten from the Sufferers by his Informing, the Parish was fain to keep him before he dyed, and be at the Charge of burying him; and also now are fain to keep his Wife, who was a Companion with him in this Wicked Work.*

Note also, *That* John Richmond, *a Companion of the aforesaid* Watt *in his Informing, who having had before pretty well about him, is since come to take Collection of the Parish.*

Attested by *Joseph Harrison*, *Margaret Peckover*,
Anne Harrison, *Tho. Watson* and his Wife,
Edmund Peckover, *Joseph Peckover.*

Upon the 16th day of the 6th moneth, 78. *John Hilyard* Priest and Justice (so called) issued out a Warrant to levy 20 l. upon the Goods of *Joseph Harrison*, for a Meeting, which the said Warrant said was at his House the 14th of *July*, 78. not expressing the Informers Names; and in pursuance of this Warrant, the 12th of the 7th moneth (78.) the Officers of *Fakenham*, viz. *Tho. Bretland* Warden, *Tho. Salmon* Constable, *Hen. Gogney* Over-seer, came to *Joseph Harrison*'s Stall as he stood in the Market, and took from him seven stone and twelve pound of Beef, worth 18 s.

The 19th day of the same moneth, *Tho. Salmon* and *Edward Beston* Constables, *Hen. Gogney* and *Rob. Dolton* Over-seers, came again to *Jos. Harrison*'s Stall in the Market, and took from him seven stone and nine pound of Beef, worth 16 s.

The 26th of the same moneth the said Officers went to *Joseph*'s stall again, and took eight stone & seven pound of Beef, worth 18 s.

The 10th of the 8th moneth, *Hen. Gogney*, *Rob. Dalton*, *Rich. Pawly* and *Tho. Bretland* came again to his Stall, and took eight stone and four pound of Beef, worth 18 s.

The

The 23d of the ſame, the ſaid Officers came again with *T. Garret* the Butcher, Conſtable, came to *Joſeph*'s Houſe, and finding the Shop door locked, asked him to open it, which *Joſeph* refuſed; *Bretland* ſaid, *He muſt break it up*; *Ioſeph* told him, *It was more than the Law required*; *Bretland* replyed, *He cared not for that, he was ordered ſo to do:* ſo they brake open the Door, and took 5. quarters of Beef, 2. Tallow-loaves- 2. Hides, in all worth 3 l. 10 s.

The 6th of the 9th moneth ſome of the ſame Officers came again to the Houſe of *Joſeph Harriſon* to levy for the ſame fine, and threatned to break open the Door; for they had ſuch Order (they ſaid) from the Magiſtrate; *Ioſeph* replyed, *They had no ſuch Order from the King and Parliament*; yet they brake open the Door, and took to the value of ſeven quarters of Beef and two Tallow-loaves. worth 3 l. 15 s.

[Note, *Its credibly reported, that ſome of the Officers ſold this Beef for* 8 d. *per ſtone, though* Joſeph *ſold of the ſame for* 2 s. 4 d. *per ſtone: and the Tallow for* 8 d. *a ſtone, and* Joſeph *ſold his Tallow about that time for* 3 s. 8 d. *per ſtone, at fourteen pound to the ſtone.*

The 14th of the ſame moneth, *Tho. Bretland* Warden, *Tho. Garret* Butcher, *Fran. Page* and *Rich. Pawly* Conſtables, *Rob. Dolton* Overſeer, went to *Joſeph Harriſon*'s when he was from home, and they brake up ſeveral Doors, and took away about fourteen ſtone of Beef, three quarters of Mutton, four Tallow-loaves, worth together 2 l. 5 s.

The ſame day in the afternoon, *Page*, *Dolton*, *Gogney* and *Pawly* came into the Market to *Joſeph*'s Stall, and took away from him eight ſtone of Beef, worth 16 s.

The 12th of the 10th moneth the Officers came again to his Stall, and took as much Beef as was worth above 18 s.

The 19th day they came again to his Stall to levy, and took nine ſtone of Beef, worth 18 s.

The ſame day *Ioſeph*'s Son brought two Bullock's Hides into Market, they took them alſo away, which were worth above 1 l.

The ſame day *Ioſeph* brought more Beef into Market for his Cu-

Cuſtomers, and as ſoon as he had cut it out, *Bretland*, *Gogney*, *Garret* and *Pawly* came again, and took it all, not ſuffering him to ſell any to his Cuſtomers; it was worth about 16 s.

Upon the 9th of the 7th moneth, 1678. *Will. Leverington*, *John Ditchwell* and *John Williamſon*, Officers of *Walſingham*, came to *Nathaniel Urine* of the ſame Town, with a Warrant from the aforeſaid *John Hilyard*, and for a fine of 10 s. impoſed on him for himſelf and his Wife being at the Meeting at *Joſeph Harriſon*'s, the 14th of the 5th moneth aforeſaid, and they took from him 15 l. of Tobacco, cut and dryed, worth 12 s. beſides a Box with it.

The 17th of the 6th moneth, 1678. *Tho. Bretland* Warden, *Tho. Garret*, *Tho. Salmon* and *Edw. Beſton* Conſtables, and *Robert Dolton* Overſeer, came to *Edmund Peckover*'s Shop, with a Warrant granted forth by *John Hilyard*, the ſaid Prieſt & Magiſtrate, to ſtrain for 10 s. for *Margaret* his Wife being at a Meeting at *J. Harriſon*'s Houſe the 14th of the 5th moneth, and they took in Money 10 s. & they took 5 s. more at the ſame time for their Son *Walker Peckover*, although not mentioned in the ſaid Warrant.

The 18th of the 12th moneth, *Tho. Bretland* & *Rob. Sheldrake* Wardens, *Hen. Gogney* and *Rob. Dolton* Overſeers, and *Francis Page* a Conſtable, came to *Edmund Peckover*'s Shop with a Warrant from *John Hilyard* aforeſaid, to ſtrein for 15 s. for a Meeting at *Joſeph Harriſon*'s, for which they took a piece of fine Holland of about twenty two yards, worth about 3 l.

About the 12th of the 12th moneth, 78. *J. Hilyard* aforeſaid granted a Warrant againſt *Edm. Peckover*, to have him brought before him, and to bring Sureties for his Good Behaviour, becauſe, being Overſeer for the Poor in the Town of *Fakenham*, he refuſed to ſtrein the Goods of *Joſeph Harriſon*, for a Meeting the fourteenth of the fifth moneth at the Houſe of the ſaid *Joſeph Harriſon*, whereupon the ſaid *John Hilyard* granted a Warrant to ſtrein 5 l. upon the ſaid *Edm. Peckover*'s Goods; for which fine of 5 l. *Tho. Bretland* with ſome other Officers went to a Cheſt of the ſaid *E. P*'s, where ſome of his beſt Goods were, and took 4. whole pieces of Searge, with 3. other pieces of Stuff, & about 12. yards of Hair-Camblet, and ten yards of Hair Grogrin; they returned part of theſe Goods, but kept for the ſaid 5 l. fine to the value of 13 l. and upward. *Robert*

Rob. Curby of *Holt* was fined for a Meeting at the ſame Town upon the 30th of the 10th moneth, 78. the ſum of 10 l. 5 s.

More, the ſaid *Robert* was fined for a Meeting at *Holt* aforeſaid, upon the 6th of the 11th moneth, 78. but the ſaid *Robert* was not at the Meeting, yet *Fra. Guybon* of *Thuſford* iſſued out his Warrants, and upon the 13th day of the 11th moneth *Will. Carr* and *J. Bacon* Over-ſeers, *Sam. Dalibon* Conſtable, *John Bret* and *John Canham* Wardens, took away from the ſaid *Robert* ſixteen Hats and a parcel of Hat-bands, worth 1 l. 5 s.

Moreover, the Door of the ſaid *Robert Curby* was broken open by the Informers, they having ſome of the Officers preſent with them, and they took away a Table, ſix Chairs, one Bedſtead with Curtains and Vallens, three Bedſteads more, two Cheſts, one Coffer, with ſeveral other Houſhold Goods, with about ſixty odd ſtone of Wool, worth together about 12 l.

James Bunting of *Burningham*, for a Meeting at *Holt* the 30th of the 10th moneth aforeſaid, was fined 5 l. 5 s. by a Warrant from the aboveſaid *Fra. Guybon*, and upon the 14th day of the 11th moneth following the Officers of the ſaid Town took from him one Coat, one pair of Breeches and a Hat, one Bible, one Cloak-bag, with ſeveral other things, worth 30 s.

Here follow more Sufferings for *Abſenting from the Steeple-Houſe*, being lately executed.

THe 20th of the 6th moneth, 1678. *Tho. Bretland* Church-warden (ſo called) *Tho. Salmon* and *Tho. Garret* Conſtables, with *Hen. Gogney* an Over-ſeer, came to the ſhop of *E. Peckover* to ſtrein for 15 s. for himſelf, his Wife, his Son *Walker* and two Maid-Servants, for Abſenting three Weeks from the Pariſh Church (ſo call'd) ſo they took for the 15 s. one piece of fine Scarge, worth 3 l. And *Tho. Bretland*'s Wife ſent to borrow 20 s. of *Margaret Peckover*, ſo ſent the piece of Scarge

This was with a Warrant from *Fra. Cuybon* of *Thuſford*.

Searge again with 5 s. in Money by her Servant, retaining only 15 s.

The 29th of the 8th moneth, *Tho. Bretland* with ſome other Officers came to the Shop of *Edmund Peckover*, with a Warrant from *Chr. Calthorp*, to ſtrein for 15 s. for himſelf, his Wife, two Sons and one Servant, for three Weeks abſenting from the Pariſh Church (ſo called) ſo *Margaret Peckover* went to the Magiſtrate, to let him know, ſhe with her two Sons were not at home ſome part of the time for which they were fined, and therefore no Reaſon they ſhou'd be fined: *Were you at Church?* (ſaid the Magiſtrate) *Yes, we were*, ſaid ſhe: *Chr. Calthop* replyed, *You and the* Papiſts *are all one, and you hear the* Jeſuits, *and they deceive you*; which is a manifeſt if not malicious Slander: Notwithſtanding the Officers came and took away ſeven pieces of Dimity, which ſaid pieces were brought again by a Neighbour that owed *Edm. Peckover* ſome Money.

The 26th of the 10th moneth, 1678. *Tho. Bretland* with ſome other Officers came with Warrants from *Chr. Calthorp* for *Edm. Peckover*, his Wife, his Son and one Servant abſenting from their Pariſh Church (ſo called) for which they demanded 33 s. becauſe they could not pay to their Demands, they took one whole piece of Searge, and two pieces more that had but little cut off them, worth 5 l. 10 s. and ſome time after the ſaid *Tho. Bretland came* and brought 1 s. and ſaid, *There was the Overplus of that which remained of the ſaid Searges*; but *M. Peckover* refuſed to receive it, ſaying, *She would not take a Shilling for ſo much Goods.*

POSTSCRIPT.

AND now, after all this Violence uſed, and Spoil made upon this People, I deſire the Reader honeſtly and conſciencioufly to weigh and conſider, What Evil has theſe Sufferers done, or what Law of God have they broke, or juſt Laws of men have they

transgressed? which is the principal matter to weigh and consi- that so thou may'st not in thy haste give a wrong Judgment, and from that draw a false Conclusion, and run with the Multitude, who deny the Truth, & persecute them that live in it, and say, *That they ought to suffer because they have broke the Law*: Now to say so, without distinction, is to draw a wrong conclusion, without well considering what the Law is, and what sort of people it lays hold upon; for the Law of God does not nor will not punish a righteous man, as the Apostle says, 1 *Tim.* 1. 6. *The Law was not made for a Righteous man, but for the Lawless and Disobedient, &c.* So also the just Laws of men, that are instituted & made according to that equal and reasonable Princip'e which God has plac'd a measure of in every man, which would, if it be adhered unto, teach & guide people *to do unto others even as they would be done unto*; such Laws preserve men in their Liberties and Properties, and not destroy them; that every man has an equal share, according to his place and degree of Preservation by them, or ought to have, that is honest; but those Laws that are or have been made to deprive men of their just Liberties, which God allows them, and requires them to use to his Glory, and afflict their Bodies, and spoil their Goods, & ruin them because they take that Liberty that the Lord allows them, which is, *to worship him in that Way as he is pleased to reveal and make known himself unto them*; that Law is not according to the Law of God; and it is under such Laws, or the resting of good Laws, that the Righteous in Ages past & also now do suffer; and them are the Laws that envious people boast of, as said the *envious Jews* of Christ, *John* 19. 7. *We have a Law, and by our Law he ought to dye*; and so said *bloody Bonner* and the rest of his persecuting Brethren to the faithful Martyrs of Jesus in Q. *Mary's* days, who put so many to death because they could not bow to the *Popish Superstition*, who upbraided those worthy men and women because they were not subject to the Queen's Laws, which if they had, *they must have defiled their Consciences, who chose rather to lose all and obey Christ, than to sin against the Lord, and thereby bring destruction upon their own Souls*: And we would have all people take notice, that this is and has been our case, that are concerned in this

this Relation of Sufferings, ſo far as the Lord has been pleaſed to ſuffer our Perſecutors to proceed; for their Words and Actions have been of the ſame nature; for ſay they, *We have a Law* (as ſay *Chr. Calthorp* and others of them) *and we are Sworn to put it in execution*: but I hope he is not ſworn to exceed it in Cruelty, as it appears in this Relation he has ſometimes done egregiouſly. Alſo the Informers they ſay to the Sufferers, *You break the Law, and therefore your Sufferings are juſt upon you*; as it was an Argument *Will. Watt* the old Informer uſed very much, with many other taunting & unſavoury Speeches unto the Sufferers, on whom the Lord laid an heavy Judgment long before he dyed, which might have been as a Warning unto the reſt of them that had an hand in this evil work of *perſecuting their honeſt Neighbours*; *but*, ſay they, *we have a Law*: but if the Law-makers did really intend, that none ſhould ſuffer by this Law, but ſuch perſons as they ſay were the cauſe for which they made this Law, then *Chriſtoph. Calthorp*, and the reſt of his Brethren, have very much exceeded their bounds in what they have done againſt their innocent and peaceable Neighbours. And *Cook* in his *Inſtitutions*, who is ſaid to be the *Oracle of the Engliſh Law*, in his firſt part, cap. 2. §. 3. Book 11. *Ever the general words are to be intended of a lawful Act, and ſuch interpretation muſt be made of all Statutes, that the Innocent, or he in whom there is no Guilt, may not be damnified.* For the Preamble of the Act, which expreſſes the Reaſon or ſole Cauſe why this Law was made (if we may believe the Law-makers) is thus expreſt, *An Act to ſuppreſs Seditious Conventicles, & Diſloyal Perſons, who at their Meetings Plot and Contrive Inſurrections, as late experience has taught, &c.*. Now the Queſtion is, whether or no any thing of that kind can be proved againſt *Joſeph Harriſon*, and the reſt of theſe Sufferers? and whether any of theſe Informers did ever ſwear, that they found *Joſeph Harriſon* and his Friends at their Meetings plotting or contriving Inſurrections, for the preventing and puniſhing of which Perſons the Law was made? No, there were never, nor could be ſuch things proved againſt them; for the Principle which they have received, & do obey, which is the Grace of God, teaches them better things,

which

which is, *to obey Christ's Doctrine, to do unto others as they would have others do unto them*, which is but equal. And although they have made use of those words in the Act, of *Five and upwards meeting together besides the Family, under pretence of Religious Exercise, in other manner than is allowed by the Liturgy*, to inflict the Penalties of Breach of that Law upon us, yet the Five and above the number must have Relation to such as be seditious and contrive Insurrections, and are Meeters but in Pretence of Religious Exercise, &c. But our Meetings are really to worship God in Spirit and Truth, and the contrary has not been proved against them, neither can be; and therefore the Law in that case that is made and provided does not lay hold on them; for the Reason why this Act was made we are wholly clear of, both in the sight of God and all men; for neither in our Meetings nor out of them, we never did, or is it in our Hearts to do, to contrive any thing that is or may be hurtful either to Prince or People; but we do say, that our Meetings are for no other End or Cause, but to wait upon God, and to call upon his Name for his Power to keep us and to preserve us, and for his Grace to teach us and instruct us, that so we may alwayes worship him in his own Way, which is in Spirit and Truth, which all Plotters and Contrivers of Insurrection are out of. And if the *Liturgy* does allow, that God should be worshipped in Spirit and Truth, then the Informers have Forsworn themselves, who swore, [*That our Exercise of Religion is in other manner than the Liturgy allows.*] And I am ready to believe, that the Leading-men of the *Church of England* will acknowledge, that they are to worship God in Spirit and in Truth; which if so, why should it be accounted a Crime for us to confess the same, and so great a Crime, as if for it there was neither Mercy nor Pity, Equity nor Justice to be extended towards us, as appears by this fore-going Relation, in which *Chr. Calthorp*, with the rest of his Brethren, the persecuting Magistrates and Informers, have so furiously persecuted their honest Neighbours; as if God had made them, their Wives and Children to be made a Prey upon, and to be oppressed; as if it were Religion enough to Ruin and Undo others, and to take the Bread from the Poor, and Clothes from the

the Needy, whilſt theſe Magiſtrates themſelves live in Fulneſs of Bread, who (like *Dives*) fare deliciouſly, and clothed with Rich Attire (like the Rich Man ſpoken of by Chriſt) have not only refuſed and neglected to relieve the Poor, but have been Inſtrumental, by encouraging theſe evil-minded Informers to take away poor peoples Clothes they wore, and their Beds they lay upon, and their Bedding, and expoſe them to the Cold, without either Mercy or Pity to old or young, or ſick; for when the Officers went to *Chr. Bedingfield*, one of theſe Magiſtrates, and told him, that there was nothing to be had of one *Mary Larder* for her fine, but her Bed on which ſhe lay at that time ſick, & more like to dye than to live, the ſaid *Chr. Bedingfield* bad them *Go and take the Bed from under her*; which ſaid *Mary* dyed that Night: Oh great Cruelty! and if this be not to over-paſs the Deeds of many of the Wicked, I know not what is; for Chriſt does not render *Dives* himſelf ſo bad. And now I queſtion not but both Magiſtrates & the Officers and Informers, who have done theſe things, would judge it hard dealings if any ſhould do by them as you have done by theſe your honeſt Neighbours, and for no other Cauſe than for their Obedience to the Lord; then out of your own Mouthes you are judged, and that you have not done by them as you would be done unto; and therefore you have no cauſe to blame me and other ſober men that hear of your Actions although we do ſay, that the Informers, Officers and Juſtices, that encourage ſuch Proceedings as theſe are, are to blame, and the Sufferers have juſt Cauſe to complain of the great Oppreſſion that ſo long has lain upon them, and to give the World an account of your unmerciful dealing with them and behaviour towards them, who have exerciſed your Cruelty upon them theſe many years, by ſpoiling their Goods from time to time of them that are alive; and yet it appears that all this Cruelty does not ſatisfie your unreaſonable Minds, that you have done to the Living, but you have ſhewn your Cruelty to the Dead, in that ſome of you in the Town of *Fakenham* have pulled the Dead out of the Grave in an inhumane manner, more like Beaſts of Prey then People that fear God, after the Body was decently buried, whereby you diſcover your ſelves

to

to be far worſe and more Cruel than thoſe accounted *Heathen*, that *Abraham* lived among, who offered him a piece of Ground to bury his Dead in; but your Envy is ſo great againſt the People of God, that you will not let them live at quiet amongſt you whilſt they live, nor let the Body lie quietly in the Grave when it was dead. And now I having viewed your Works, and taken notice of your Actions, which are ſcarcely to be parallel'd for Cruelty in this Nation, conſidering the long continuance of your Oppreſſion, for which you have a large Account to give to the Lord, from the higheſt of you to the loweſt, that have had any hand in perſecuting your innocent Neighbours, without any juſt Cauſe by them given you.

And now it is upon me from the Lord, to Warn you all that have had any hand in this Work, to Repent of this your Cruelty, and Abuſes offered and done unto his People, before it is too late, and the Day of your Viſitation paſſes over, and you be ſhut up in utter Darkneſs, and the Lord ceaſes to ſtrive with you, as he did with *Jeruſalem* of old, in whoſe ſteps you have walked in oppreſſing his Children, and evil-entreating his Servants and Meſſengers that he has ſent amongſt you, to exhort you to turn from the Evil of your Ways, and the Violence that is in your Hands & Hearts; but inſtead of receiving them and their Teſtimony, you have cauſed them to ſuffer; and them that did receive them and their Teſtimony, you have from time to time evilly requited them, ſo that you would not receive them your ſelves, nor ſuffer them that would, if by all the Violence you could uſe hinder them. The Lord give you Repentance before it be too late, and you be cut off, is the Deſire of him that chooſes rather to ſuffer Affliction with the People of God, than to live in the Pleaſures of this World.

S. Cater.

THE END.